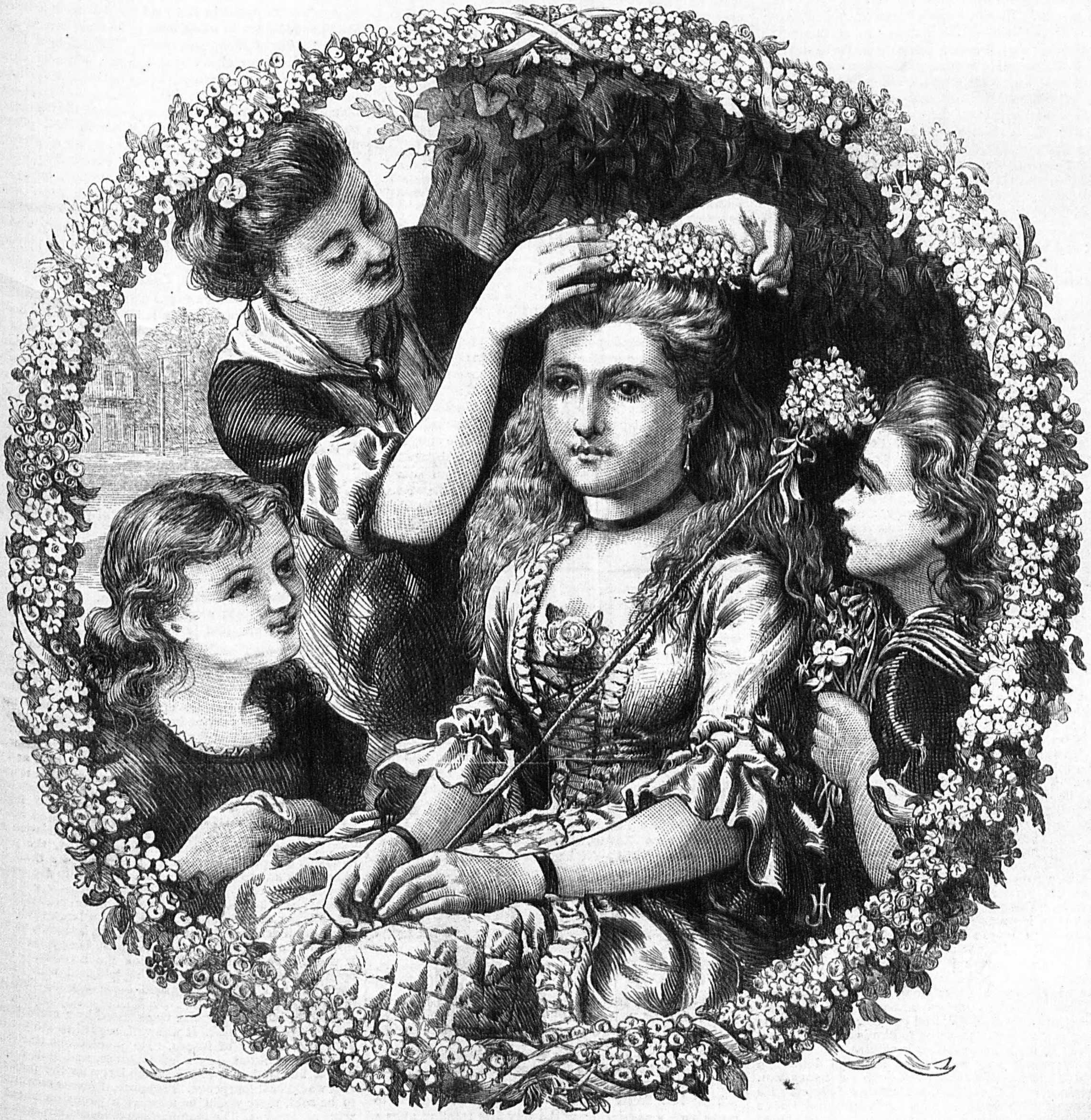
THE ILLUSTRATED Newspaper.

Vol. I.—No. 7. Saturday, April 29, 1871.] PRICE THREEPENCE. [Registered at the General Post Office as a Newspaper.



THE MAY QUEEN.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE ROBERT LOWE.

A WEEK ago the statesman the best discussed and the most roundly abused throughout the country was Mr. Bruce. He was the author of the new Licensing Bill. He had ruined his reputation. He had destroyed the Government. Happily for him these little heats of unpopularity are brief. Another man to-day takes the foremost place in popular disfavour. Of Mr. Bruce for the moment we hear little or nothing, though the petition against his measure lies at almost every public-house in the country for signature.

The Right Hon. Robert Lowe has come to the fore to bear the brunt of howls and hisses and metaphorical rotten eggs. He proposed to put a tax on lucifer matches. East London was in a state of incipient rebellion. Ragged women and girls and boys by thousands went down to the House of Commons to protest, and Mr. Lowe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer to a Liberal Administration elected by household suffrage, proceeds by a secret and circuitous route to Westminster, is smuggled across the street to the "members' entrance," and, by dint of clever dodges on the part of the police, gets into the House unperceived by the match makers. In his place, however, on the Treasury benches he was courageous enough. The mob has not alarmed him. He stood at bay. He gave no hint that he would abate one jot of his demands. Mr. Lowe at this trying moment in his career as a Minister fell back on his true character. He never was a "gushing" politician; he gives no sentimental adhesion to any section in the political field; but the men whom, in a Parliamentary sense, he hates are the Radicals. He never has any patience with them. He does not care to try to appease them. If he gets up to dispute with them he offends more than he convinces. Last year he stood forward to defend Mr. Forster's Education Bill against the League, and the best he could do was to cast ridicule on the League. His attitude on Monday night in challenging the House upon his Budget was not less characteristic. He hardly condescended to argue with the men below the gangway. He could understand their grounds, he said, in effect; everybody knew what they meant and what they wanted. They were opposed to increased taxation. They did not believe in inproving the defences of the country. He had nothing to say to that. In point of fact, if the Radical party had a majority in the House, Mr. Lowe knows very well that he would not be a Minister, nor would he desire to be. All the force of his argument went to demonstrate the folly, the bad logic, the want of principle of the Conservative party in joining with the Radicals to carry the resolution against his Budget. "You have voted every service in the army," he cried out to these inconsistent Tories, "You have voted an increase of soldiers, an increase of militia, an increase of Volunteers and the other Reserve Forces; you have increased the Army Estimates by a million, and now, because an honourable gentleman on this side of the House makes a motion and carries with him certain members on this side, *you, the Conservative party, who feel for the honour of the country*, are going to vote that the House must undo what it has done and retrace its steps; that the items granted in committee are to be set aside, and that we are to revert to the expenditure of last year." That was his line throughout. All he said was addressed to the Conservatives, and in spite of his half-sneering, half-sarcastic tone, his words told. He brought over votes. It is not given him to conciliate Radicals, but he can make an impression on the Opposition benches. To Mr. Gladstone he leaves the task of dealing with the gentlemen below the gangway.

That is a faithful picture of Mr. Lowe which we present this week on page 121. It is the expression of the man as he sits waiting his turn to speak. He does not look round him, for he is too short of vision to adopt a watching or observant attitude; but yet he is never-failingly vigilant. You know as you look at him that he will not yield, nor come to the end of his resources. There is in him an originality of intellect not to be forestalled. No speaker on his own side, rising before him, will render needless his own speech that is to come. No opponent will meet and vanquish his contention before he has an opportunity of getting upon his feet. Presently he rises, intrepid, full of confidence in his own power to place himself in a strong position. He is not an orator as is the man who carries an audience with him by a torrent of rhetoric. You can tell what of his speech is prepared and what is impromptu. He will not condescend to elaborate an argument beforehand. His logic is ever at his finger ends. He can rely upon that at any moment. What he comes provided with are illustrations, and occasionally jokes. His wit is keen and suggestive, and he says many a smart thing impromptû, but his best jokes, as well as his quotations and clever comparisons, are cut and dried, and you can tell when he is working up to them. To listen to him is an intellectual exercise; to study his speeches is culture.

His opponents may be assured that the detraction that is levelled at him this week does not annoy him. Praise does not delight him, nor censure depress. He is strongest when in bad odour. All the world knows he can make a great speech, yet he took no trouble to produce an effect in introducing his Budget, So soon, however, as he was attacked, he came out in force. In what he said on Monday night there was not much carefulness of style, no polish and no finish; but, loose as it was, it was powerful. It was the speech of the evening, though an ex-Premier and a Premier spoke after him.

OUR LONDON NOTE BOOK.

THE SEQUEL TO A STORY.

SOME three or four weeks ago, in this column, moralising on the obscure tragedies in real life which are played out in London uncared-for and unnoticed by the busy, hurrying throng, we quoted a passage from the London letter of the *Hereford Journal*, wherein the writer described, in graphic and touching language, an accident which occurred under his observation in a London street. A poor labourer, working at a drainage excavation, was crushed to death by the caving-in of the sides of the pit in which he was labouring. The body was carried away. The widow and children were there in the evening, mourning the miserable misfortune that had befallen them. There was no apparent relief for the bereaved. The correspondent dreaded to think, in that bitter wintry weather, of what would become of the wretched woman and her children, who seemed, after that fatal evening, to have passed away, as it were, into an awful oblivion whither no one cared to follow them.

It happens to us to be able to give to-day the sequel to the story. We spoke, a fortnight ago, of the London district journals. They are excellent papers of the provincial sort, dealing minutely with district and parochial affairs. The one now before us is the *St. Pancras and Holborn Journal*. It contains a full report of a recent meeting of the St. Pancras Board of Guardians, and there we come upon some traces of the widow whose case excited the sympathy of the London correspondent whom we quoted. Here is the passage:—

> "Mr. S. Homan read letters from the Rev. Canon Champneys and one of the curates of St. Pancras, with reference to the poor woman whose husband had been killed in the sewer works, and who had been left with five children. A sum had been subscribed to enable her to emigrate to America to her friends, and he asked the Board to grant her a gratuity of £10 to assist in that object. The family were now receiving relief, and the parish would be the gainer.
>
> "The Clerk said that the letters were endorsed by the relieving officer of her district that she was now receiving 8s. in money and six loaves per week. He had been a relieving officer for upwards of twenty years in some of the most important towns in England, and in the whole course of his experience he had never seen such relief given.
>
> "Mr. Furniss exclaimed that it was almost time the Poor Law Board took the matter into their own hands; such an abuse of relief was disgraceful.
>
> "Mr. Chandler said that this was quite an exceptional case. Here was a poor woman left starving, through the accidental death of an industrious husband, with five children to maintain, and he was not ashamed to grant them exceptional aid.
>
> "The motion was carried."

Instead of creeping away into some wretched hole to die of grief and starvation, as the London correspondent feared, we are happy to find the poor woman turning out to be a case of the "disgraceful abuse of relief." We hope this sequel of ours will not escape his notice. From the tone of his letter to the *Hereford Journal* we are disposed to think he would be prepared, like ourselves, to confess that his moral sense is not at all shocked on discovering that the disgracefully extravagant sum of eight shillings per week has been paid over to the woman by some officer who is insensible of the duty he owes to the ratepayers. But stop. If the correspondent witnessed the fatal accident, as he says, from his window, then must he be a ratepayer of St. Pancras, and although that is not the district in which the unfortunate excavator's widow has received that disgraceful amount of relief, it *is* the district out of whose funds £10 has been subscribed by the guardians towards the cost of the emigration of the poor woman and her family. Mr. Homan and Mr. Chandler are evidently a couple of soft-hearted men, totally unfit to be Poor Law Guardians. The man made of the right stuff for the office is the gentleman who could not control his indignation at the disgraceful abuse of relief. Next year these three gentlemen will probably solicit our unknown correspondent for his vote, in their character as candidates for the office of Guardian of the Poor. Human nature is generous, but weak. Economy is a splendid thing in theory. The model guardian is he who guards the pockets of the ratepayers. We would like to know whether, next Easter, our mysterious, sympathetic correspondent will split his vote between Mr. Homan and Mr. Chandler, or plump for Mr. Furniss.

DANGEROUS SERVICE.

While we are talking of the St. Pancras Guardians we are tempted to quote another passage from the report of their last meeting, illustrative of the levity with which some of them speak of the ratepayers' money. The subject was the increase of small-pox in North London:—

> "The Rev. W. R. Arrowsmith said that, whilst he was sitting at his Relief Committee, a man came in upon whose face the small-pox was visibly breaking out.
>
> "Mr. J. Salter thought that every guardian should insure his life for the benefit of his family, and that the Board should pay the premiums."

That Mr. Salter should have permitted himself to make such a suggestion at the very first meeting after a smartly contested election of guardians betrays a sad want of true feeling of the responsibility imposed upon him by the suffrages of the ratepayers. Where could Mr. Furniss be that he did not immediately rebuke Mr. Salter for his levity on a subject so intimately connected with the great question of economy?

LOOSE LUCIFERS.

A London correspondent of a high class Midland Counties journal, who is very severe upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer for proposing a tax on matches, says:—

> "By the way, is my memory at fault in this particular? Did not Mr. Lowe, in his Budget of last year, endeavour to create some amusement by referring to the extraordinary suggestions made to him by correspondents as to ways and means? And did he not say that one writer was preposterous enough to hint at a tax on lucifer matches? And did he not sneer at this suggestion as the very perfection of silliness? *And has he not struck out the passage from his last edition of his previous Budgets, recently issued?*"

Now these are all questions to which the writer does not proceed to supply the answers. We are not prepared to say the odd statement is not correct. The Finance Minister may have made reference in a former Budget to the suggestion of a tax on matches, and if he did, and if he spoke slightingly of the proposal then, we should not be surprised to find that he had struck the reference out of the most recent edition of his speeches. But the London correspondent is not justified in speaking of the suggestion of a match tax as something so *outré* and unlikely to occur to the minds of ordinary men that, if it were ever thought of before, the idea could have had origin only in the mind of some crack-brained anonymous correspondent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is, indeed, quite a stale subject in some districts in England. Over and over again, organs of public opinion in agricultural counties have advocated such a heavy tax upon matches as would ensure the most careful and economic use of them, and thereby diminish to a large extent the danger of accidental fires. Farmers' clubs have discussed the question; local Chambers of Agriculture, we believe, have advocated the tax; and a considerable number of Mr. Disraeli's supporters of the "country party" have, out of Parliament, if not in their places in the House, expressed opinions in favour of placing such an impost on lucifers as would effectually prevent people from leaving them about carelessly, or using them in a reckless manner. The tax is now gone. But there is no novelty in the proposal, and its withdrawal will disappoint many a farmer in the country whose wheat stack is liable to be fired by children playing with lucifer matches.

RETAIL TRADE.

The match tax has been so peculiarly a London question this week that the note-maker is likely to find his book full of the subject. It has been brought into view in a great many aspects which did not present themselves on the evening when the Budget was unfolded. Nobody supposed, on Friday, that it would be made the subject of a great public demonstration; yet, in a few hours, all East London was discovered to be in a state of excitement about it, and on Monday thousands of the denizens of Bow and Whitechapel, many of whom had probably never seen Westminster before—for the real Cockney travels but little, and knows nothing of London beyond his own district—moved in a mass towards Palace-yard, making a really formidable display of popular feeling against the new and startling proposal.

The case of the manufacturer, however, has been sufficiently canvassed. What we wish to make a note of is the bearing of the tax upon the ordinary vendor and the purchaser in many districts in London. We find upon inquiry that in poor neighbourhoods the usual form in which lucifers are sold is four boxes for a penny, and the general shopkeeper is very rarely asked to supply more than one box at a time. The match trade, therefore, is principally carried on through the instrumentality of the smallest coin of the realm. How would the Chancellor of the Exchequer have met that case? The answer at first sight seems a very simple one. For the farthing box three-farthings would have been charged. But such is the inveteracy of the habit of the poor of purchasing goods in small quantities as far as possible that they never would be convinced that it was not an injustice to compel them to buy a hundred matches for three-farthings when they might, but for a legal form, have thirty matches for one farthing. And when we come to look into it, there is not an instance in which, by reason of the incidence of a tax, the purchaser is compelled to take a larger quantity than he likes of an article in common use. Naturally the small shopkeeper would break the stamp and sell out the matches at a farthing per score, or, more probably, a farthing per dozen—for there is always a large profit in these small dealings. Such a proceeding, however, as we read Mr. Lowe's speech, would not have been permitted. It would have led to a fraud upon the revenue. The open box might be constantly replenished with illicit matches, and one stamp would cover a good deal of business.

Another interesting point was started by a correspondent in the *Telegraph*. It was with regard to the penny stamp on the box of fusees. He pointed out that the fusee-box contains only a few matches, and that a box with a hundred in it would be too large for the pocket, and would cost fourpence. Therefore, if fusees continued to be sold, there would be a tax of a penny on about a score of matches. The manufacture of fusees, however, he contended, would be abolished by the impost. Ingenuity would contrive a new sort of match for smokers, which might be made to come within the common definition, and be carried by the halfpenny stamp. The argument seems to us convincing. We have no doubt the penny stamp would have put an end to the sale and manufacture of fusees.

LITERATURE AND ART.

Mr. Swinburne has now recovered from his indisposition.

A full-length portrait of Pius IX., painted by George P. Hurley, of Boston, is on its way to be exhibited at the Academy. The Pope sat for Mr. Hurley, and the portrait is highly spoken of.

Mr. Henry Kingsley has retired from the editorship of the *Edinburgh Daily Review*.

The authorities of the Commune supply the reading-rooms which they have opened in the hospitals with Democratic papers, which defend the Republic and propagate Socialist doctrines. "The books in the official libraries," says the Commune, "are destined to degrade souls and to stifle patriotic inspirations."

The *Zukunft*, the only Republican paper of Berlin, has been discontinued for want of subscribers.

The Peel collection of pictures lately purchased for the National Gallery, and removed to Trafalgar-square, will very shortly be opened to public inspection.

It is said that Mr. Leslie has already sold for £2,000 his picture of "The Daughter of Ulysses," which is to be shown at this year's Academy.

Mr. Samuel Cousins, R.A., has just completed an engraving of the life-size portrait of the Queen painted last year by Mr. Lowes Dickinson. The engraving represents nearly a year's conscientious labour of the most celebrated of living English engravers. Both the picture and the engraving are now on view at Messrs. Dickinson's Gallery, 114, New Bond-street. It is said that this will be Mr. Cousins's last work.

Mr. Albert Wolff, who left the *Figaro* on the outbreak of the German war, is about to publish, at Brussels, a work entitled "The Two Emperors." It will appear in about a fortnight.

Mr. Millais is asking £5,000 for his work "Moses, Aaron, and Hur."

We regret to find it stated that Sir Edwin Landseer's condition leaves no hope that he will be able to paint again.

In the *Piccolo* of Naples the death is announced of Signor Francesco Paolo Palizzi, a Neapolitan painter, who had long been settled in Paris.

The members of the Fine Arts Club gave a *conversazione* last week at their house in Saville-row. The chief feature of the display was a collection of paintings by old masters, the great majority being works that had formed part of the recent exhibition at the Academy. All the paintings, with the exception of three lent by Lady Eastlake, were the property of members of the club.

A second edition of Mr. Guisbury's book on the Moabite stone is in preparation, with additions to the present time.

A gentleman at Birmingham has made that town a present of £3,000 to be invested in the purchase of paintings, with a view to assist in the establishment of a public picture gallery.

A new work, entitled "The Diary of an Idle Woman in Italy," by Mrs. Elliot, is in the press. It is dedicated to her husband, the Dean of Bristol.

It is stated by the *Indépendance Belge* that the French Ambassador in London has informed M. Favre that pictures belonging to the collections of the Louvre have been sent to England and sold here by order of the Commune.

The *Athenæum* hears from Scotland that an illustrated satirical journal will be commenced in May, under the title of *The Dawn*. It will be published simultaneously in Edinburgh and Glasgow, on the first of each month.

It is stated that on reconsideration Lord Charles Russell has granted permission to a well-known artist, celebrated for his caricatures, to frequent the lobby of the House of Commons.

The names of the committee for the public banquet in Glasgow on the 9th of August, commemorative of the centenary of Sir Walter Scott, include those of the Duke of Argyll, who presides; the Duke of Montrose, Earls Derby, Glasgow, Selkirk, and Stair, the Home Secretary and numerous members of Parliament, Dean Stanley, Archbishop Eyre, Mr. George Macdonald, and Mr. Anthony Trollope.

The poet Deschamps died at Versailles on Sunday.

The *Athenæum* has the following literary gossip:—"The Indians who now come to London are taking a more active part in public proceedings of late. It is noticed that many of them speak in better language and with a better accent than some of the provincial orators. As yet we cannot be said to have an Indo-English school of literature; but we may early have a school of oratory, as the extension of the native bars and of the practice of assisting at meetings favours the development of public speaking. Thus we may have another florid school added to the Irish and American, when the orators of Asia shall again occupy the tribunes of the West.—Half the first volume of Mr. Gairdner's new edition of the Paston Letters is printed.—An amusing album of caricatures has been published at Berlin, under the title of 'Les Soldats peints par Euxs mêmes: types Français.' The sketches are from the pencil of one of the French prisoners, whose name is not given.—The literature of the siege of Paris grows rapidly in volume. Mr. G. Gibson Bowles, special correspondent of the *Morning Post*, is about to publish his experience of the 'Defence of Paris; Narrated as it was Seen.'—There is a fair prospect of the establishment of a Celtic Professorship in Edinburgh University. Towards the endowment one gentleman has offered £1,000."

"There is no medicine at the present day I value so highly as the Pain Killer. I have used it in my family for years, and in every instance it has proved a sovereign remedy. I tested its virtue to-day on a severe burn, and found it all that could be desired. I cannot praise it too highly. A. D. Milne, Editor, *Messenger*, N.Y.—To Perry Davis & Son, London, W.C." [367

A THOUGHT AMONG THE COWSLIPS.

[*See page* 120.]

Nymphs who haunted wood and grot
In the golden days forgot,—
Ye have gone, and swains who burned
With a passion pure have turned
Into grey-beards, feeble, old,
And from grey-beards into mould,
Long ago, aye, long ago.
Oft have seasons marked the ground
With the change they bring around
Since ye lolled 'neath forest bushes,
Where the roses stole your blushes.
Summer hath gi'n place to snow,
And oft and oft the frosty glow
That bedecks the wintry king
Melted at the smile of Spring,
Since about the glens ye ran,
Singing praises unto Pan.

Nymphs who haunted wood and grot
In the golden days forgot,—
Though ye have gone, the fruitful earth
Still to beauty giveth birth.
Flow'rs bud and blow, and bees
Drift with honey o'er the leas.
We have brooks, and birds, and rills,
Meadows bright, and sunny hills;
Still at morn comes up the Sun,
Still he goes, and day is done,
And at night-time still on high
Silver lamps illume the sky.

Nymphs who haunted wood and grot
In the golden days forgot,—
Though your souls have gone above,
Ye have left on earth your love;
Left your passion, left your graces
Speaking in celestial faces.
For I wandered t'other day
From the city's dust away
To a woody dale I know,
Where the rustic cowslips grow;
And I saw young maids as fair,
Gentle, and as debonnair
As the nymphs of poet's page—
Sweet as nymphs of any age.
These blythe maidens saw me not,
I was in a shady spot,
Where April richest green had spread
Underfoot and overhead,
Covered in by verdure walls.
They were throwing cowslip balls
At each other's heads in play.
Simple, gentle too, were they
Beautiful and glad and bright,
In whose eye there was a light
That with happiness did shine,
Full of love and hope divine.

Then, ye nymphs of wood and grot
Of the golden days forgot,
Then it was I thought your love
Had not gone with ye above,
And that when ye went away
Beauty did not then decay,
But was left with love to bless,
And bring the world to happiness.

Guy Roslyn.

Odours and their Action on the Health.—The following remarks appear in *La Presse Médicale Belge*:—"A knowledge of perfumes reaches to the most remote antiquity. The Jews made use of them in the time of Moses. They were highly esteemed by the Greeks in the time of the wise but rigorous Solon. Their use was carried to excess by the Romans; and finally, in our times, they appear to have arrived at their utmost perfection and delicacy. It has been reserved also for the present day to use them in the greatest profusion. But if the perfumes that are everywhere found, and can be extracted by certain processes, may be used with safety, this cannot be said in every case of the odours that are naturally exhaled by flowers, leaves, or fruits. Their action on the economy in a limited space, and especially during the night in a closed chamber, deserves to be noticed. It manifests itself by serious disorder, headache, syncope, and even by asphyxia if their action is too prolonged. In nervous persons numbness may occur in all the members, convulsions, and loss of voice, but in general only a state of somnolence, accompanied by feebleness and retardation of the action of the heart. This state is often associated with well-marked dimness of vision. Amongst the flowers that are most deleterious may be mentioned the lily, hyacinth, narcissus, crocus, rose, carnation, honeysuckle, jessamine, violet, elder, &c. In addition to the danger caused by their smell should be mentioned their action on the air. During the night flowers actively produce carbonic acid, which is injurious to health. Majendie even cites a case of death caused by a large bouquet of lilies which the sufferer, a previously healthy woman, had slept with in her bedroom. Amongst the more dangerous plants may be mentioned the walnut, the bay-tree, and hemp. The action of these is well known, the latter indeed producing a kind of drunkenness."

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

Figaro says the last scene of Mr. Tom Taylor's "Joan of Arc" has been declared a "burning shame."

Haydn's "Creation" will be performed at the Royal Albert Hall on the 3rd of May by the Sacred Harmonic Society, under Sir Michael Costa's direction.

Mr. Bateman will produce a comedy written by his wife, entitled "Self," on his occupation of the Lyceum Theatre.

A new cantata by Mr. J. L. Roeckel is announced for performance at the Crystal Palace.

A correspondent of *Lloyd's Newspaper* sends the following account of a dramatic challenge and Shakespearian contest:—"Mr. Pennington's admirers and patrons consider him the greatest exponent of Shakespeare extant, and are willing for him to compete with any living actor for the prize of 1,000 guineas a side, as to who shall bear off the palm as the best delineator and representative of a Shakespearian character, the prize to be awarded by a committee selected from our dramatic critics. It will be arranged for the contest to take place in one of the largest of our theatres. The challenge has been accepted, the 2,000 guineas deposited, and the preliminary arrangements are in progress."

A new theatre is being erected in St. Thomas's-street, Borough, by Mr. Strange, of the Alhambra.

The Vaudeville, following the example of the Gaiety, is starting morning performances.

"The Two Thorns" at the St. James's will be succeeded by "Fernande."

Mdlle. Beatrice's "Frou Frou" company have been drawing large audiences in the provinces.

Mr. Charles Mathews has arrived in New York, where he has been enthusiastically received.

A series of grand choral festivals will be given at the Royal Albert Hall, with a choir of 1,000 voices, under the direction of Mr. G. W. Martin.

The performances of the "Passion-plays," or "Mysteries," interrupted last year by the war, will be resumed at Oberammergau on the 24th of June, and will be continued until the 24th of September.

Last week a gentleman who had requested some actors at the Queen's Theatre to "Speak up!" was seized by a policeman, and marched to the station on a charge of annoying the audience. There he was locked up in a cell until three o'clock in the morning, when he was liberated on his own recognizances. The magistrate, in discharging the defendant, intimated that more caution should have been exercised by the police!

Some time ago the Milan Quartet Society offered two prizes for the first and second best new overtures to Shakespeare's "King Lear." These prizes have just been awarded—the first to Signor Benedetto, of Naples, and the second to Signor Bozzini, of Brescia.

Miss Heath and her London company are performing "Fernande" at the Lyceum Theatre, Sunderland, to good houses.

The first of the Covent Garden Floral Hall Concerts will take place to-day (Saturday).

Herr Spohr, a nephew of the great violinist of the same name, has been playing at Berlin with great success.

The Dean and Chapter of Worcester are increasing the cathedral choir by the introduction of amateur members. The services of four such members have been already accepted.

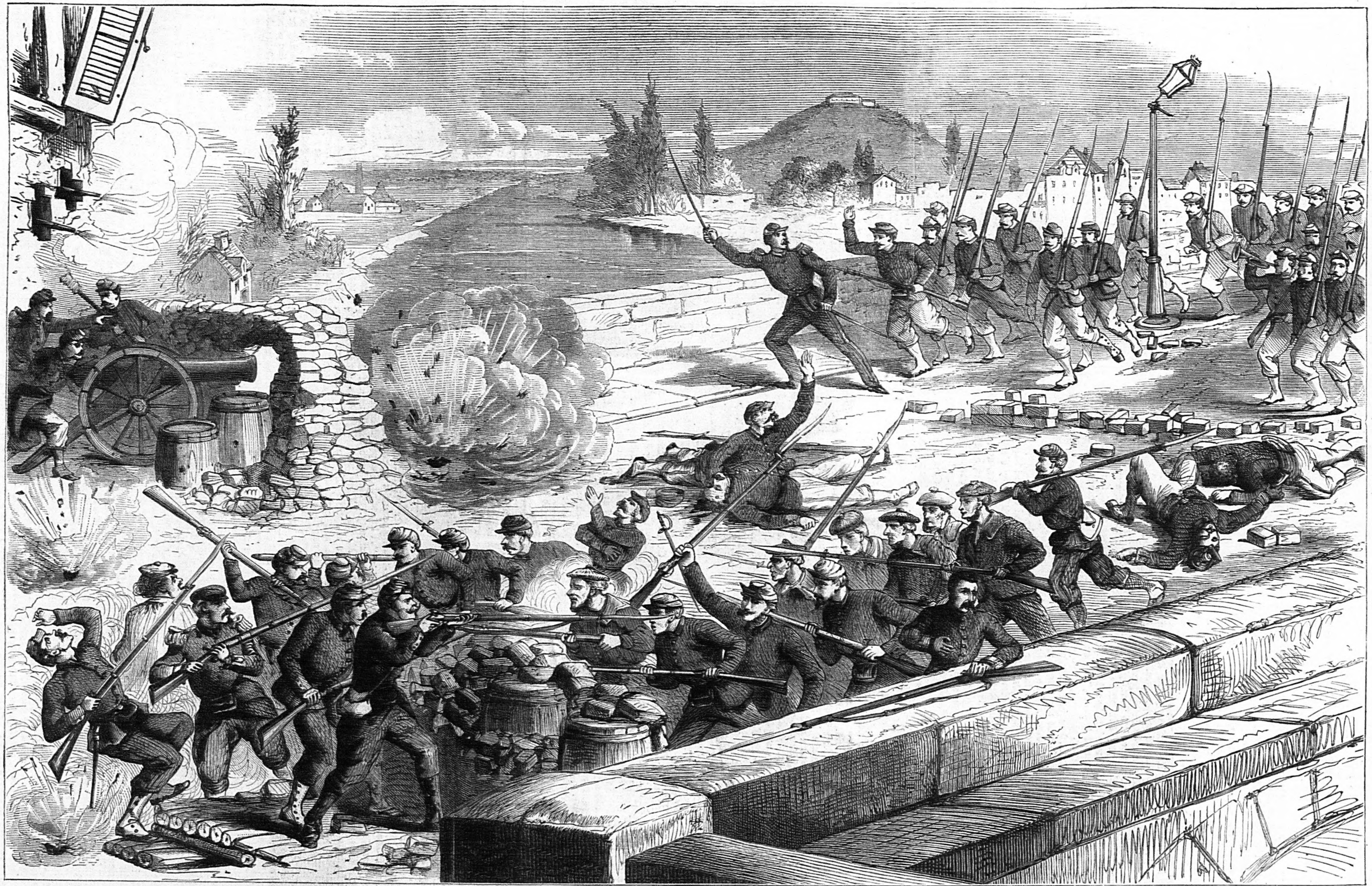
Two young but already favourably-known aspirants for musical honours—the Misses Ferrari, of the Royal Academy of Music—announce a concert for this (Saturday) evening, in which they are promised the co-operation of much foreign and native musical talent. In the evening "La Favorita" will be played at Covent Garden, for the second appearance this season of Signor Mario in one of the most popular of his many popular parts.

Mr. Sothern writes that there is no truth in the announcement that he has taken a Liverpool theatre.

The *Illustrirte Zeitung* announces the discovery of a new and unpublished Mass by the celebrated Pergoles, which was found in the archives of the Church of San Ferdinando, in Naples. The work was put into the hands of Maestro Serrao, who was preparing the score in order that the Mass might be sung during Passion Week in the Church of San Ferdinando.

The *Pall Mall Gazette* believes that there were never so many theatres open in London as during the last few months. "But it is generally supposed, and apparently with reason, that they have not all been doing what is called 'good business.' Every one will regret to see the manager of the Haymarket figuring in the Bankruptcy Court; and a few theatre-goers will be astonished to find that he has been joined there during the last day or two by the late manager of the Lyceum. That the effect of producing such a mass of musical and dramatic rubbish as 'Chilpéric' should be to create a debt against the producer of more than eight thousand pounds is not, in itself, to be regretted. But that the director of a theatre where the entertainments provided, without ever being dull, have always been of a high class, and for the most part of native origin, should find himself in difficulties is a fact from which no satisfaction can be derived. We cannot even see how it is to be accounted for. It cannot be said that there are too many theatres in London; for in proportion to the population, we support a smaller number than most European capitals. Besides, if a certain number of theatrical collapses must necessarily take place, one would expect the inferior establishments to collapse first. So, as a rule, they do; but it is a rule to which, unfortunately, there are exceptions."

Caution against the Use of Poisonous Hair Washes.—Dr. Chandler, Chemist to the Board of Health, New York, found of fifteen Hair Restorers analysed that all contained lead; the public should, therefore, use those preparations only that are harmless and do not dye the hair. Fowler and Sheppard's Bay Rum is the best of these. All should use this charming wash, it cleanses and cools the head, prevents scurf, and promotes the growth of the hair in a marvellous degree; for children it is invaluable; no nursery or toilet should be without it. As a lotion it surpasses Eau de Cologne or Toilet Vinegar. Direct from the proprietors, Fowler and Sheppard, Chemists, 51, Hollywood Road, West Brompton, and 36, Elgin Crescent, Notting Hill, in bottles, 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 4s. 6d. each; 4s. 6d. bottles carriage free to all railway stations. Also from all chemists. [295

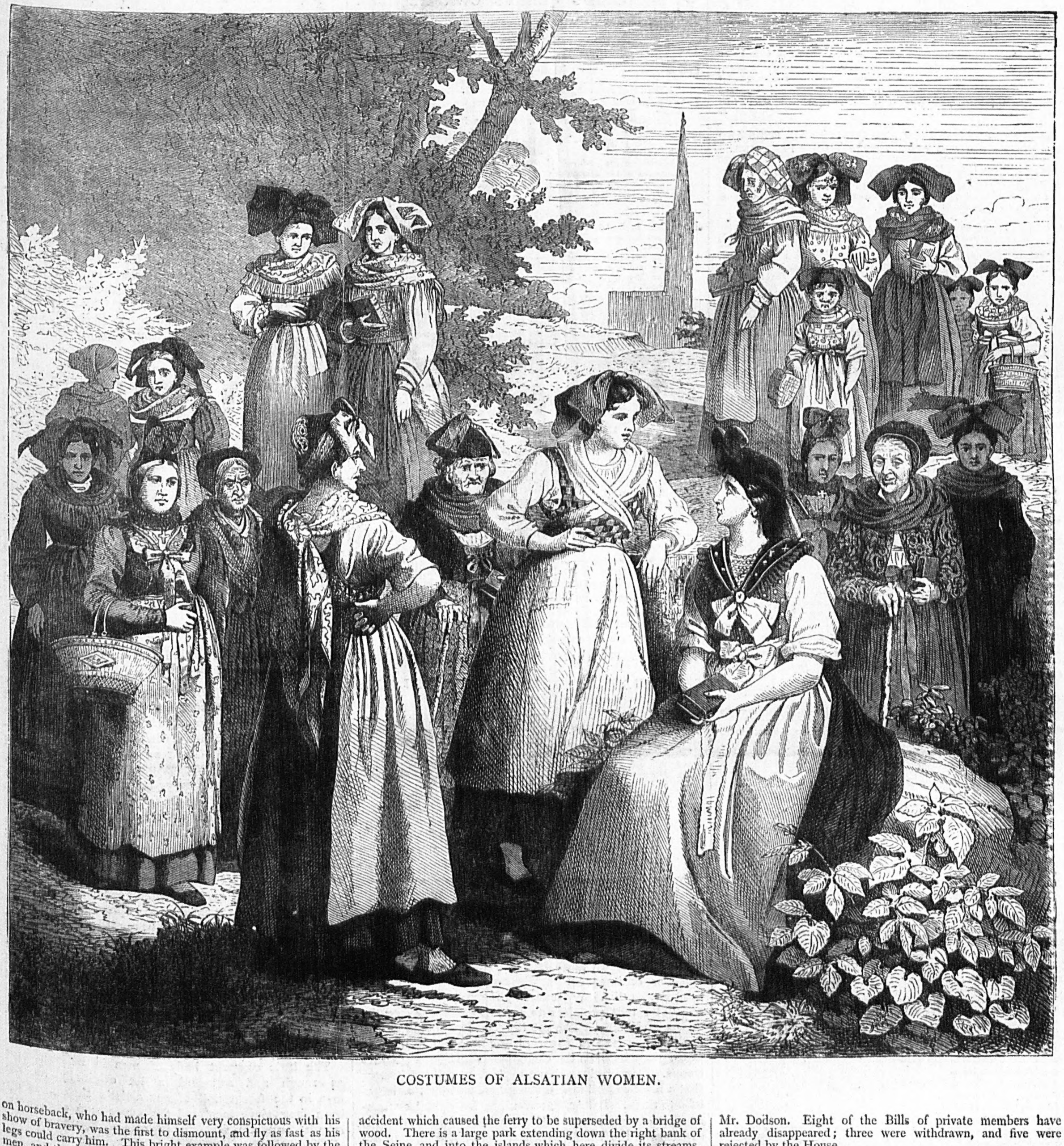


THE CIVIL WAR: The Fighting at Neuilly.

THE FIGHTING AT NEUILLY.

It was here that the Reds were brought to confusion during their memorable "march on Versailles." Between six and seven no the morning of April 3rd the troops which had all night been massed in great numbers in the Avenue de Neuilly were ordered to march past Courbevoie straight into Versailles. They accordingly started, many of them imagining that Mont Valérien would not oppose them. When they had gone a little way, however, the fort opened upon them with shell and grape. Although the firing was not intense, only three pieces being employed against them, the Reds were instantly thrown into consternation and confusion. The leaders ran away, and the men followed them. It would have been easy for them to have replied to the fort, and, under cover of their own artillery, the insurgents might have got past without much loss. But the men were not at all inclined to try this experiment. A colonel on horseback, who had made himself very conspicuous with his show of bravery, was the first to dismount, and fly as fast as his legs could carry him. This bright example was followed by the men, and the army which boasted that in a few hours it would enter Versailles was completely dispersed by a few cannon shots. To prevent a return of the offensive, the fort continued firing among the routed insurgents, sending its shot as far as the Bridge of Neuilly, where a horse killed by a bullet impeded the way, the insurgents being too agitated to stop and clear it away. The fighting was kept up day after day, more or less, about the Bridge of Neuilly. The army of Versailles took it, and announced to the Assembly at Versailles that the army had gained an important advantage. But the army could not hold it. There was a retreat. The National Guards took it, and then the Communal journals announced a great victory. Thus there was not much advantage to the troops, who, whenever they took the bridge, were forced to retire. No doubt the Versailles troops will conquer in the end, but they are doing their work slowly, and are not showing sufficient determination. While Paris was burying its dead on April 9, General de Gallifet was driving across the Bridge of Neuilly the few detachments of National Guards which still lurked in Courbevoie. He succeeded without difficulty, and then proceeded to knock down a barricade at Neuilly Bridge with guns from the Rond Point of Courbevoie. He made a breach, but failed to keep the bridge, which the Guards retook later. We give an illustration of this incident in another part of the paper. Since then the bridge has been won and lost several times.

Neuilly is part of Paris itself. There is no break in the streets. The Château de Neuilly, which has long been in ruins, was the most frequented residence of King Louis Philippe. The celebrated Bridge at Neuilly has five arches, each of 120 feet span, the masterpiece of the architect Perronet, built 1772. Henri IV. and his queen were dragged into the water here in their cumbrous state coach, and narrowly escaped drowning, an accident which caused the ferry to be superseded by a bridge of wood. There is a large park extending down the right bank of the Seine, and into the islands which here divide its streams. On the left bank is the village of Courbevoie, a name that is intimately connected with the rows of the Reds.



COSTUMES OF ALSATIAN WOMEN.

Costumes of Alsatian Women.—Our engraving on this page represents the different costumes of Alsatian women. The first of the three to the right, in the background, is from Aschenheim, and the other two are from the neighbourhood of Strasburg, whilst the old lady beneath and her attendants are from Strasburg, as are the old woman in the centre of the picture who looks so much like an old man, and the two figures in the rear to the left with a profusion of head-gear. The first and third of the four centre figures are from Geisfoldsheim, and the fourth from Oberseebach. The figure to the extreme left represents Wassenheim, and the one next to her with the basket hails from Sulz.

Spoils of Revolution.—According to the *Rappel*, a commission of working jewellers recently assembled at the Ministry of Finance, in Paris, to examine and determine the value of a splendid collection of sapphires and pearls which had been found in the cellars of the Ministry. "We have," says the *Rappel*, "had an opportunity of examining among others two pearls of the size of a small pigeon's egg, still attached to their shell, and which, in the judgment of all, must be worth several millions of francs, and the sapphires are also of great value. They are to be put up for sale by auction in France, and, if a fair price is not offered, they will be sent to England."

The House of Commons.—The list of Bills before the House, made up to the 24th of April, shows that 113 public Bills have been laid before it—fifty-one Government Bills, and sixty-two Bills brought in by private members. The eleven Bills which have already become law are all Government Bills, if we count as such the Provisional Orders Bill, brought in by Mr. Dodson. Eight of the Bills of private members have already disappeared; three were withdrawn, and five were rejected by the House.

Wonderful News.—According to the *International*, the Swiss Legation in London has notified to all Swiss residents belonging to the first ban of the reserve to hold themselves in readiness for immediate departure as soon as required to reinforce the contingents of the active army, the whole of which is under arms. The cause given for this sudden mobilisation of the Federal Landwehr is said to be that the Berlin Cabinet have claimed openly the possession of the German-speaking cantons of Switzerland.

Sarcasm and Coolness.—Slightly sarcastic was the clergyman who paused and addressed a man coming into church after sermon had begun with the remark, "Glad to see you, sir; come in; always glad to see those here late who can't come early." And decidedly self-possessed was the man thus addressed in the presence of an astonished congregation as he responded, "Thank you; would you favour me with the text?"

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Take one teacupful of Pearlina, steep it in one cupful of milk for an hour, then add half-a-cupful of flour, three tablespoonfuls of sugar, quarter lb. of suet, two ounces of orange peel, quarter lb. raisins, quarter lb. currants; add two eggs, well beaten up, then a teaspoonful of ground cinnamon, and the same of ginger; tie in a bowl or cloth, and boil for three hours.

THIS MAKES IT AS RICH AND LIGHT AS SIX EGGS AND SIX HOURS' BOILING WOULD DO WITHOUT PEARLINA. [936

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WHOLESALE AGENT—WILLIAM GILMOUR, 80, WOOD STREET, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON. [377

NOTICE.

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF LONDON.
The Official Records of the London School Board, from the first meeting to the present time, are appearing in THE SCHOOL BOARD CHRONICLE. The Official Minutes begin in No. 8 of the CHRONICLE, for April 8.
GRANT & CO., Publishers, 102, Fleet Street.

NOTICE TO THE TRADE.

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NOTICES.

THE ROYAL WEDDING PICTURE

Can still be had with the Paper. Price of Picture and Paper together Sixpence.

Many applications having been made from the country for extra copies of this work for framing, arrangements have been made for posting the Plates carefully rolled on wood (to prevent creasing), on receipt of Sixpence in postage stamps.

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A few copies of our Tinted Lithographic Supplement, issued in March, can still be had on application to the Publisher, price Sixpence, including an ordinary number of the Paper.

OSLER'S CRYSTAL GLASS CHANDELIERS.
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May be had at the British College of Health, Euston Road, London, and of all Booksellers. [357

WOOD ENGRAVING.—Mr. GILKS begs respectfully to announce his REMOVAL from Bedford Row to 11, KING'S ROAD, BEDFORD ROW, Gray's Inn, W.C., London. [330

H. WALKER'S QUEEN'S OWN NEEDLES. [336

NOTICES.

THE London Publishing Office of this Paper is at 102, Fleet-street, where the trade can now be supplied early on Friday mornings.

COMMUNICATIONS for the Publisher should be addressed to 102, Fleet-street, London, E.C. All letters for the Editor must be addressed "Editor, ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER, 72, Turnmill-street, London, E.C."

FROM March 18 until July 1 the rate of charges for Advertisements will be:—
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⁂ ADVERTISEMENTS cannot be received after 12 o'clock on Wednesdays.

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EXTRACT FROM PREFACE TO OUR NEW SERIES.

We have already shown the public that an illustrated newspaper can be produced for threepence. The encouragement which we have received induces us to go a step further. We mean to prove that an illustrated paper *equal to the best pictorial journals of the day* can be produced for THREEPENCE. The present number may be taken as an earnest of our sincerity.

We will share the profits of our undertaking with our patrons. A large increase of circulation shall be continually met by an increased expenditure in the production of our pictures. Acting upon this principle we believe that in a few months the ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER will be the most popular work of its kind ever produced.

These are bold words. We shall act up to them; and as we merit public favour, we trust the measure of our deserts may be meted out to us. With which hope in the future, we combine our very hearty thanks for kindly consideration and support in the past.

March 18, 1871.

NOTICE.

THE MATCHMAKERS' DEMONSTRATION ON MONDAY.

"THE ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER"

Next week will contain three sketches of the Matchmakers' Procession and Collision with the Police.

With next week's "ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER" will be issued on a Separate Sheet for Framing,

A MAGNIFICENT DOUBLE-PAGE ILLUSTRATION,
ENTITLED
SATURDAY AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE:
SCENE IN THE TROPICAL COURT.

Price of Supplement and Ordinary Number, THREEPENCE.

THE Illustrated NEWSPAPER

LONDON, APRIL 29, 1871.

PARIS is still in the midst of a second siege. It is generally thought, however, that "the beginning of the end has commenced." We confess we are not so sanguine as this. We can only see preparations for an encounter that promises to be more like war than the taking of Neuilly. The veteran correspondents of our leading newspapers sneer at the fighting which has taken place between the Communists and the Versailles troops. Our brethren have supped so full of horrors that a few hundred men maimed and killed is a bagatelle to them. Lately, however, the fratricidal encounters have become more and more serious, and if there is anything in the note of preparation both at Versailles and Paris, the correspondents will soon have another terrible story of bloodshed to send home.

THE latest news from France may be briefly summarised. On Monday morning there was a complete lull in the fighting and firing outside the city, and General CLUSERET having announced that at noon an armistice would commence at Neuilly, crowds of people went up to the gates to get out and bring away their friends and movables. In the midst of their assembling, however, the fire upon the town from the Communist batteries increased, and before the people could escape some serious casualties took place. It was then discovered that the Commune had not accepted the terms of the truce. The terms were settled the next day. The armistice was concluded simply for the benefit of Neuilly. It lasted all day, during which time the majority of the inhabitants cleared out. The *Daily News* correspondent, who was present, says the armistice supplied a holiday for half Paris, and produced a great bustle everywhere, partly of sightseers who went to see the devastation, and partly of householders, who seemed to have all the carts in Paris at their disposal for removing furniture. A great number of the inhabitants chose to remain in the disputed territory. They have a bad look-out for the future, for not even St. Cloud can match the ruin and desolation at Neuilly. The people who remain are mostly too poor to move away. Some attempts at fraternisation were made between the two sides, but the troops of the Line were rough and surly to the last degree, and unaccommodating. We were hoping last week that the rival Governments would have effected a compromise of some sort. Negotiations are said to be going on with the view to an arrangement; but neither side seems inclined to make concessions.

MR. LOWE'S attempt to tax matches will give us several illustrations and add to the growing unpopularity of the Government. For many years there has not been seen so formidable an array of policemen in London as the bodies sent out to disperse the procession of men, women, and children from the East-end. It is contrary to the law that persons should assemble in large numbers within a certain distance of the Palace of Parliament, while the House is sitting. The law has a trusty memory. It recalls the time when certain troopers marched into the House with a leader who ordered a certain "bauble" to be removed. Nothing in the shape of intimidation should be allowed to come between the House and its deliberations. The poor matchmakers were wrong, therefore, in attempting to accompany their petition to Westminster. Nevertheless, we think the conduct of the police was harsher and more demonstrative than the occasion warranted. This opinion is strengthened when we contrast the freedom allowed to persons who go, with bands and banners, to spout treason in Hyde Park on Sundays. The matchmakers had a grievance, and while they were very properly prevented from assembling near Westminster, there was a bitterness imported into the action of the police that contrasts remarkably with their treatment of the "Red Republicans" of London. It was not necessary that the police should tear up the banners of the matchmakers, and it was an outrage to tear down their petition. We are glad that the matter will not be allowed to rest with Mr. LOWE'S withdrawal of his objectionable proposition.

DRILLING RECRUITS AT WOOLWICH.

AN awkward squad. You will see such a group any day at Woolwich. Agricultural labourers, riverside loafers, gentlemen's servants out of place, disgraced clerks, tramps—the scum of the kingdom, as Mr. Trevelyan calls them. It is wonderful what training and discipline does for such men. Their schoolmaster is the drill sergeant, a smart, active, upright, honest, manly fellow, whose example has an immense moral influence upon the rough material which he is called upon to lick into shape. He begins his work upon the recruit in the rough, raw state of enlistment. From the tap-room straight to the drill-ground the awkward squad assemble in strange, ragged, unlikely groups, as if a prison had cast them forth. Now that the army is being reorganised and some opening made for intelligence and enterprise, the *morale* of the recruit may be improved. There is no reason why the army should not be regarded as an honourable profession by middle class youths; and it will be so regarded when it is shown that a certain percentage of the officers may be taken from the ranks. It would be a mistake to change the aristocratic character of the British officer; but there is room in the upper ranks of the army for a leaven of the genius and ability of the unmoneyed talent which seeks and finds success in other professions.

The little compact body of men in uniform were as rough and awkward a lot originally as the men in the foreground of our artist's sketch. They have long since mastered the goose step of the raw recruit, and are well up in gun drill, which, after all, is their chief business. Infantry movements are of comparatively secondary consideration among the artillery, though the efficiency of the line is as marked in this respect on a review day as that of the ordinary infantry regiments. We are glad to learn that there is an important increase in the number of recruits now presenting themselves for enlistment. A War Office return shows that 24,698 recruits were enlisted in the course of last year for the regular army; 14,927 were finally accepted—viz., 12,903 enlisted in England, 809 in Scotland, and 1,215 in Ireland. The return states also that 16,969 volunteers were enrolled in the year 1870 for the militia, and that 4,733 militiamen volunteered for the regular army in the same year.

THE MAY QUEEN.

We can sympathise heartily with Washington Irving's delight on first seeing a May-pole. It was on the banks of the Dee, close by the picturesque old bridge that stretches across the river from the quaint little city of Chester. His fancy at once adorned it with wreaths of flowers and peopled the green banks with all the revelry of May-day. It is a pity the old celebration should die out. This is the age of revivals. We have redeemed the Harvest Home. The good old days of this Autumn festival may be said to have come back again. We had the pleasure of assisting at the inauguration when Archdeacon Denison led the sports and pastimes. Why do not some of the rural clergy re-erect the May-pole? Within the last thirty years the beautiful symbol of peace and flowers has been put up here and there, but the May-day Festival proper is now a thing of the past.

As far back as the sixteenth century it was customary for the people to sally forth on May morning to gather flowers and hawthorn. They brought home their floral spoils to the accompaniment of horns and tabors. They decorated their houses with hawthorn and the other first blossoms of the season. Thus it was that the hawthorn came to be called May. It was a beautiful thought that introduced the May Queen. She was selected for her beauty from the maidens of the village. Crowned with hawthorn, she was supreme for that day—Queen of Flowers, Queen of the May. Behold her in our picture, under the village tree, accepting the homage of her delighted subjects at her coronation. Sweet, simple, innocent, beaming with health, glowing like the May-day sunshine, the village beauty might excite the envy of many a Sovereign decked in regal state, and surrounded by Imperial pomp. Behold our heroine's court, her maids of honour, her regal officials; they have placed the sceptre in her hand—the crown upon her brow. Outside that little group is a crowd of villagers cheering their queen, and leading happy lovers through the pretty mazes of an old English dance. Yonder on the green is the village inn, kept in reasonable awe of right by the parsonage. The vicar joins the sportive throng, and feels the good influence of his presence in a crowded congregation on Sunday.

What a pity it is we cannot drag this May-day festival out of the "dust of ages" and set it once more in the calendar. The poor little dirty queens that throng the London streets on May-day are a miserable satire on the past. Why, in the days of Henry VIII. the Corporation of London went out in the high lands of Kent to gather the hawthorn on May-day morning, and the day was right royally celebrated by the King and his Queen, Catherine of Arragon, meeting the Council in state at Shooter's-hill. They are often less pleasantly and less usefully engaged too, the modern Corporation, than were their predecessors in the old days. It is good to lead the public mind away to fields and flowers, to foster holidays that are founded in healthy and innocent traditions. We are losing our distinctive character. Our festivals are too much in the gas-light. The grand barge processions on the Thames are gone. Dare some enterprising and poetical Lord Mayor (we can hardly imagine such a being, we confess) revive the procession and the May-day festival together, by going down the river in state and bringing back to London the first buds of the summer in triumph?

But it is not in London that we can fairly expect such a revival. It is in the country, in rural villages, in bosky dells, in pleasant valleys. Our mind wanders to Somersetshire and Devonshire, to Worcestershire and Warwickshire, as we think of localities that might fairly call the May Queen back again to her hawthorn crown and sceptre. We commend the hint to our country friends, and hope to strengthen our appeal with this seasonable picture of "The May Queen."

The expected Attack on Paris.—The Paris correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs:—"M. Thiers came to St. Denis on Sunday, and had a long interview with the Crown Prince of Saxony and General Fabrice. He informed them that the Versailles army numbered 150,000 men, but that all will not be available before May." The Versailles correspondent of the same journal sends the following telegram, dated Monday afternoon:—"The bombardment of Forts Issy and Vanves will go on continuously from day to day. Before this day week a great movement in Paris is to be undertaken. French troops hold Fort Charenton, and I am informed that the Prussians will allow them to occupy the Northern Forts even before the payment of the first instalment of the indemnity, which will not be made so soon as has been reported. Among the deputies there is a party for calling the Duc d'Aumale to the head of affairs as President of the Republic. The subject has been discussed at more than one meeting. There is no one here in favour of bringing back the Emperor, but it has been ascertained that in the provinces there is a strong growing reaction in his favour. To-day the *Soir* sounds the alarm. It calls also on M. Thiers to take decisive action, and show Europe that the Republican Government is strong enough to put down this rebellion. The Government themselves say that the crisis has arrived."

The census returns show an increase at Bradford of 42,000 and at Sheffield of 55,000.

LOUIS BLANC ON THE REPUBLIC AND THE COMMUNE.

The following is a translation of a letter addressed by M. Louis Blanc to M. Cernuschi, the editor of the *Siècle*:—

Versailles, April 20, 1871.

Sir,—You wish to know if I have remained a Socialist. Upon this point your curiosity must be very great, since this is the second time you have publicly asked me the question. Be assured, I have remained a Socialist. Permit me to add that if you are ignorant of this it is not my fault, for in my letters to the *Temps* I have never missed an opportunity of declaring my political and social convictions; and again quite recently I explained, developed, and defended them in a book published in France under the title of "The Revolution of February." True, from the moment I returned from exile to shut myself up in besieged Paris, my thoughts and my mind were completely occupied by poignant anxiety for the misfortunes of my country. But what I was, I still am. At the present moment I feel myself drawn as powerfully as ever towards the study of the problem long since laid down in these terms:—The moral, intellectual, and physical amelioration of the condition of the class the most numerous and the poorest, by the co-operation of efforts instead of their antagonism, and by association instead of conflict. If with regard to the practical means to be employed for arriving *gradually* at the solution of this great problem, twenty years of observation and sincere study had led me to modify my ideas, so far from concealing this, I should consider myself bound in honour to declare it. I have not this duty. Perhaps the reason is that the wrong means have been taken to convince me, my opinions having been calumniated or burlesqued rather than discussed. As to the reproach you address to me of belonging to a party which, to quote your words, "fears to injure the millennial edifice of royal unity, and dreads the apparition of a Federal constitution, by which the chain of the past would be broken," let us come to an understanding. To break the chain of the past I believe to be neither desirable nor possible, for the simple and very well-known reason that the past is the parent of the present which in its turn is the parent of the future. And I should deem it deplorable, provided that the chain of the past could be broken, that it should be broken for the profit of the Federalism which you appear to wish for. If the only thing at issue were to "injure the millennial edifice of royal unity," an old Republican like me would not be terrified by such a result. But the principle for which I will fight as long as I can hold a pen, is that which the Revolution proclaimed; that from which it derived the strength to crush the coalition of the Kings; that expressed by these words which explain so many victories and recall so many grand deeds—"Republic, one and indivisible!" France advancing united and compact to the pacific conquest of its liberty and that of the world, with Paris—the immortal Paris—for capital, is a prospect which tempts me more, I admit, than France reverting, after being torn in pieces, to that Italian Federalism of the Middle Ages, which was the cause of continual intestine contentions in Italy, and which delivered her, lacerated by herself, to the blows of every foreign invader. Not that I am for centralisation carried to extremes. Far from it. I consider that the Commune represents the idea of unity not less truly than the State, although under another aspect. The State corresponds with the principle of nationality; the Commune corresponds with the principle of association; if the State is the edifice, the Commune is the foundation. Now, upon the solidity of the foundation, that of the edifice depends. Hence it follows that in recognising the right of the Commune to govern itself, to elect its magistrates, beginning with the Mayor, to control their office, to provide, in a word, for everything which constitutes its own life, for everything which its autonomy realises, the cause of National unity is really served. But just as it is necessary that the municipalities should be free in their movements—in everything which specially concerns each of them—so it is necessary that the bond which unites them one to the other and attaches them to a common centre should be vigorously fastened. Just as decentralisation is necessary in everything affecting local interests, so would it be dangerous if extended to general interests. Suffocation, no; unity, yes. Assuredly no one will deny that it is conformity with good sense to attribute—what is personal to the individual; what is communal to the Commune; what is national to the nation. The difficulty would be to trace a well-defined line of demarcation between these various classes of interests, were not the means of distinguishing one from the other almost always furnished by the very nature of things, and inherent in the laws of evidence. Under any circumstances, this is a matter for free investigation and free discussion. But, alas! how distant the day seems still in which that maxim which so much sophistry has obscured will be received as an axiom—"Force founds nothing because it settles nothing." What, in fact, is taking place? The cannon roars; the abyss opens; we slay; we die; and such is the fatality of the situation, that those within the Assembly, and those without, who would give their lives to see this sanguinary problem solved in a pacific manner, are condemned to the torture of being unable to perform a single act, to utter a cry, to say a word, within running the risk of provoking manifestations contrary to the object they propose, or without rendering themselves liable in this manner to irritate the malady, to envenom the wound. Was ever misery to be compared with this? And when the return of civil peace depends, on the one hand, upon the formal recognition of the sovereignty of the people, which abides in universal suffrage that will express it in a more and more intelligent manner, in proportion as the organisation is improved, and on the other hand, upon the ungrudging consecration of everything which constitutes municipal freedom, is it conceivable that, instead of seeking an issue from so many evils in a policy of pacification, of conciliation, and of forgetfulness, Frenchmen should continue to cut each other's throats under the eyes of the enemy, whom our discords strengthen, and of the world, which is scandalised? Oh, civil war, grafted so lamentably upon foreign war; frightful struggle pursued amid an intellectual night, that a single ray of thought ought of itself to dissipate, there is one thing which equals thy horrors—it is thy madness!

Louis Blanc.

Montreal has sent an order to England for six thousand sparrows.

The wheat importations of the first three months of the present year have been two per cent. in excess of those of the corresponding period of last year, and seven per cent. over those of 1869.

Mr. Jay, the United States Minister at Vienna, contradicts the statement that he had been transferred to Constantinople. The story originated in the fact that Mr. Jay is about to undertake a journey to Constantinople on leave of absence.

The Minister of Public Worship in Wurtemburg has made a formal announcement that the King's Government will not recognise the new doctrine of Papal infallibility.

Mr. Grant Duff is spoken of by the *Friend of India* as the next Governor of Madras.

The *Indian Mirror* states that the ambition to belong to the Civil Service is one that is fast spreading among the youths of Bengal.

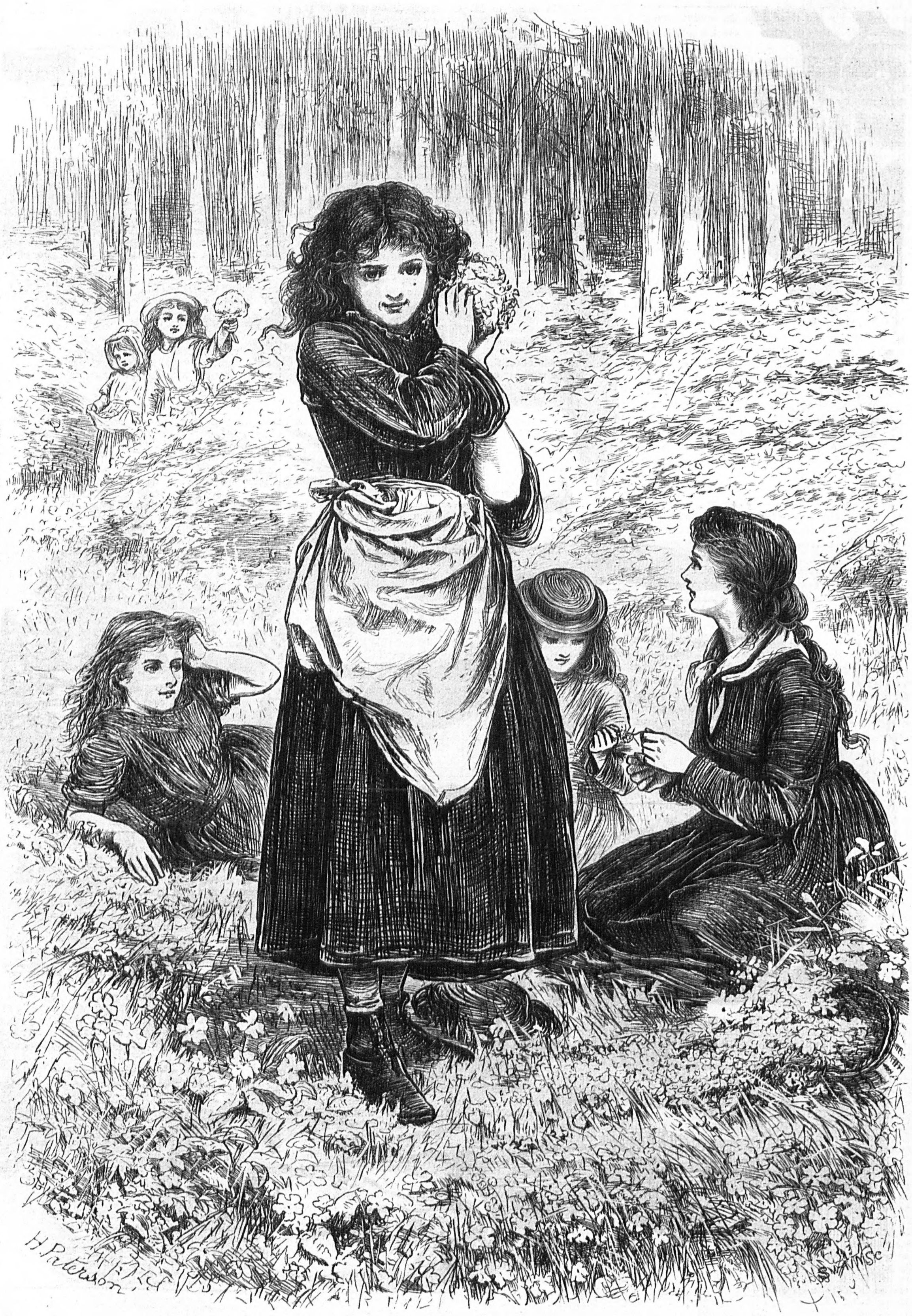
New System of Ventilation.—The problem of how to ventilate effectively the atmosphere of rooms has puzzled pratical men so completely, and has given rise to so many unsatisfactory experiments, that there is probably no more vexed question of a social character. Even the most approved systems hitherto adopted have their drawbacks, the chief objection to most of them being that they are so constructed as to be productive of draughts, or that they do not carry off the vitiated air so as to be of any real benefit. Hence ventilators are tampered with. In many cases people find them to be a nuisance, and either close them up or venture to improve upon them. A mode of ventilation, however, has been introduced by Mr. W. Potts, of Handsworth, Birmingham, of so simple and ingenious a character as to merit the closest attention. Mr. Potts has set to work upon a sound principle, and the merit of his invention is that it is always in working order, that it cannot be interfered with, and that it affords no temptation to interference, inasmuch as it does its work imperceptibly. The highest authorities have spoken of it in terms of the warmest approval, and agree in recommending it as a system not less efficient in its operation than it is silent and untroublesome. Dr. Shaw, the Superintendent of the Metropolitan Fever Hospital; Mr. Herbert W. Young, of Somerset House; and Mr. Baker, Inspector of Factories, are amongst the gentlemen who have given the weight of their testimony in its favour. The system is simply a hollow cornice carried round the room. The cornice may be of any material, but preference is given to zinc. It is divided longitudinally into two channels. The upper channel communicates with an attraction shaft, either a smoke or air flue, having an outward current, and is perforated ornamentally along the face. The vitiated air, when given off by combustion, or from the human lungs, being lighter than the ordinary atmosphere, at once rises to the highest part of the room, and is drawn into the perforations by the current and conveyed away up the shaft or flue. The lower channel of the cornice communicates with the outside of the building by air-brick openings at intervals in the outer walls, through which the fresh air enters the cornice, and travels round it, descending into the room by its own gravity, through fine perforations at the back of the lowest member of the cornice, close to the wall line. These perforations are closed immediately in front of the opening in the walls, so that the air cannot descend by a direct stream into the room, but has a direction given to it round the walls. The upper part of the room being heated, the air flows freely in, but as the air at the floor is colder, and consequently more dense, it descends with less and less force each instant, and consequently causes no draught. Its inventor claims for his system that it gives equal distribution of pure air without draught, that it has a continuous action and an ornamental appearance, that it cannot get out of order, and that it costs little more than plaster cornice in new buildings. We have had the pleasure of inspecting several models of this invention, and from these we find that the system can be so constructed as to suit any room, however humble or magnificent, and that it may be placed over existing cornices.

Holloway's Pills.—There is nothing in the whole "Materia Medica" like these medicaments for the certainty of their action in lumbago, sciatica, tic doloreux, and all flying or settled pains in the nerves and muscles. Diseases of this nature originate in bad blood and depraved humours, and until these are corrected there can be no permanent cure. The ordinary remedies may afford temporary relief, but in the end always disappoint the sufferer. Holloway's Ointment penetrates the human system as salt penetrates meat, and the Pills greatly assist and accelerate its operation by clearing away all obstruction, and giving tone to the system generally. The prophylactic virtues of Holloway's remedies stand unrivalled. [42

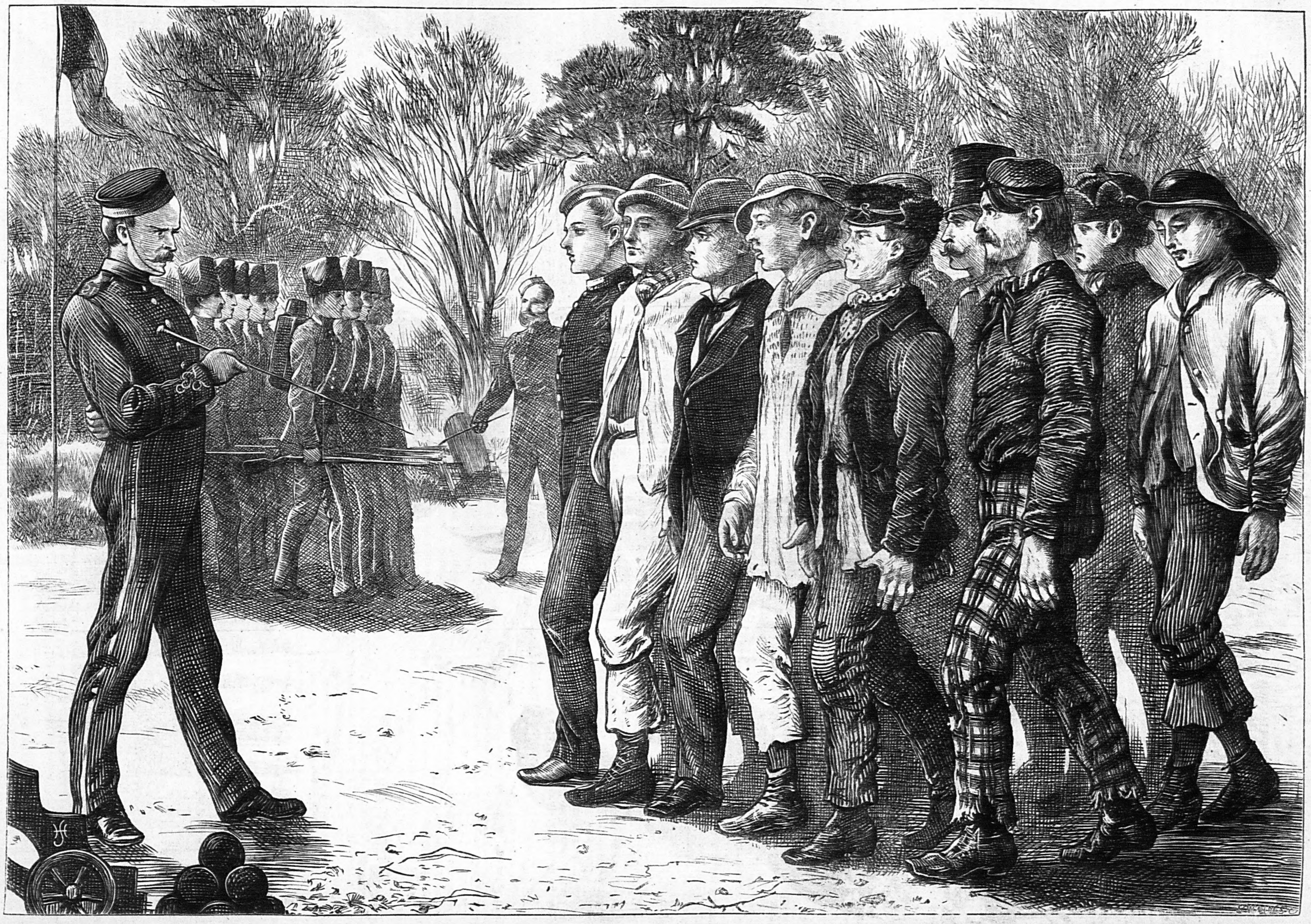
Patent Teeth on Soft Gums.—Mr. William J. Watson, Surgeon Dentist, 16, Newhall Street, Birmingham, begs to inform the inhabitants of the Midland Counties that he is the SOLE INVENTOR and DISCOVERER of a new system of fixing PATENT TEETH on SOFT GUMS, and he being the actual Maker, is enabled to supply Teeth *at about one-third the usual charges*. Single Teeth from 3s. 6d. each; Sets from £2 10s., including all charges. Perfectly fitted at one visit. Attendance daily from nine a.m. till eight p.m. Consultation free. [164

To Clean a Silk Dress.—Use Archer's improved Colloid, as advertised on page 124. This article is also invaluable for washing prints, muslins, and all coloured frocks or dresses for spring and summer wear. [361

Beautiful Hair.—The Plain Truth.—If people will only use Mrs. S. A. Allen's Preparations, they will have no trouble about their Hair. Mrs. Allen's World's Hair Restorer will positively and certainly restore the natural original colour in every case of greyness, no matter from what cause it arises—the hair is stimulated to natural growth. The "Zylobalsamum," as a hair-dressing for young and old, is the best article that can be used; it imparts a gloss and vigorous appearance to the hair very beautiful to see. The Restorer, 6s.; the Zylobalsamum, 3s. (Separate preparations—not at all necessary to be used together.)—Depôt, 266, High Holborn, London. Sold by all Chemists and Perfumers. [366



COWSLIP BALLS.



DRILLING RECRUITS AT WOOLWICH.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The red flag has been hoisted at Boulogne, but it was at once seized by the police.

The small-pox continues to spread in Malta, and there was a talk, when the last mail left, should it not abate speedily, of delaying the return of the ships of the flying squadron.

The *Yorkshire Post*, on the authority of its correspondent at Whitby, denies the report of the intended purchase of Mulgrave Castle by the Emperor Napoleon.

Intelligence from New York states that Her Majesty's frigate *Immortalité* is ashore at Kingston, Jamaica, and that the commander has been brought before a court-martial.

The Commune has invited tenders for the purchase of the Vendôme Column, which will be sold in four lots.

By latest accounts cholera still continues at Bushire.

The Bristol Board of Guardians had ordered a supply of matches sufficient to meet the requirements of several months, so as to avoid as long as possible the payment of Mr. Lowe's proposed new tax, since withdrawn.

Mr. John Lambert, of the Poor Law Board, is to be made a C.B.

The Ku-Klux-Klan have burned forty negro churches and school houses in Mississippi within the past few weeks.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is expected to arrive in England about the middle of next month.

The *Temps* calculates that more than 500,000 people have left Paris since the end of the Prussian siege.

The coming of age of His Royal Highness Prince Arthur will, it is understood, be celebrated by Her Majesty the Queen and Royal Family at Osborne on the 1st of May.

A project has been approved by the Russian Government for fortifying Odessa and Kertch. Large ironclad batteries will be constructed immediately at both places.

On Saturday morning a storm of insects fell at Bath. The insects descended in the form of a glutenous drop, about the size of a large pea, and many of them soon developed into a worm-like chrysalis about an inch long.

The *Morning Post* has information that the Porte intends to send a large ironclad fleet to cruise in the waters or about the coast of the Euxine this summer.

St. Alban's Abbey is to be restored.

Upwards of eighty priests of the Roman Church are shut up in the prison of the Conciergerie.

It is announced that Earl Cowper, K.G., has accepted the appointment of the Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms, held by the Marquis of Normanby previous to his being appointed Governor of Queensland.

An eccentric citizen of New Jersey, who has recently died, has bequeathed the bulk of his property, valued at about £80,000 sterling, in trust for the benefit of six aged horses.

It is said that Mr. William Blanchard has resigned the County Court Judgeship of Northumberland in consequence of ill health.

Great distress exists amongst the Paris compositors in consequence of the suppression of so many newspapers.

Prince Napoleon has published a pamphlet at Brussels, in which he urges the restoration of the empire as the sole means of restoring order.

The Czar will be present at the triumphal entry of the German troops into Berlin, and probably at the general celebration of victory.

Port Said is to be made a coaling station for Her Majesty's ships passing through the Maritime Canal and the Red Sea.

News of the suicide of Paul Nigary, a prominent leader of the Left, circulated on Friday in the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet.

Mr. Justice Mellor took occasion to complain on Saturday of the great inconvenience caused in the Court of Queen's Bench through the place of Mr. Justice Hayes not having been filled up.

Mr. Goschen has given £50 to the Royal Naval School, New Cross.

Miss Brackenbury has signified her intention of giving the sum of £10,000 for the establishment of a medical school in connection with Owen's College, Manchester.

The brig St. Thomas got on the Goodwin Sands on Saturday morning, but was towed off.

The American fleet has been ordered to meet the Czarewitch.

A telegram from Rome is published by the *Neue Freie Presse* stating that a crisis in the affairs of the Roman Church appeared imminent, and that the Roman conclave would probably meet at some place outside of Rome.

The enormous fortune spoken of by Mr. Lowe, in his financial statement, had reference to the estate of the late Mr. Brassey, the legacy duty having been paid on three millions.

A paragraph has lately appeared in several journals, giving the description of a casket which it is supposed that the late Duke of Wellington left the Prince Arthur, with directions that it should be opened when his Royal Highness came of age. The *Pall Mall Gazette* says the story has no foundation whatever.

In Monday's sitting of the Second Chamber of the Dutch Parliament, the Government presented the bill for the cession of the Dutch possessions on the coast of Guinea to Great Britain.

The Camp of Instruction which it is proposed to form in Berkshire during September does not find favour with the volunteers generally.

The head mastership of the Newcastle Grammar School has become vacant by the resignation of the Rev. Dr. Snape, who has held the appointment for thirty-seven years.

The Emperor of Austria has addressed an autograph letter to Count Beust, Count Andrassy, and Herr von Hohenwart, convoking the delegations for the 22nd of May.

Three men were drowned in the Severn the other day by the capsizing of a boat.

The system of compulsory education is to be introduced into Alsace and Lorraine.

A new comet was discovered on April 7th, by M. Winnecke, at Carlsruhe. The comet is small and has a small tail. It is slowly approaching the earth—that is to say, is becoming brighter.

The Lords of the Admiralty have granted a man-of-war, stationed in the Thames, for use as a convalescent hospital for metropolitan small-pox patients.

After many delays caused by certain legal formalities, it is now understood that the long-deferred case of "The Queen *v.* Boulton and Park" is to be tried in the sittings after term.

The Dean and Chapter of Exeter have at length given orders for the commencement of the work of restoration at the cathedral.

The German Reichstag has 382 representatives.

A fund of over £50,000 has already been subscribed or guaranteed by the "trade" to carry on the opposition to Mr. Bruce's Licensing Bill.

It is announced that the Emperor of Russia will arrive at Kissingen about the middle of May to drink the waters. On his return journey he will visit the Court at Berlin, where he will remain for several days.

Lord Walsingham has left England on a tour in the United States.

The two oldest members of the House of Commons are attorneys. The senior is Mr. Barrow, the representative of South Nottinghamshire, who was born in 1784, and the next oldest member, Mr. Hadfield, who sits for Sheffield, and was born in 1787.

Up to this time the sum of £20,000 has been paid into the Sustentation Fund of the Irish Presbyterian Church.

Another agrarian outrage is reported from Mayo.

The *Globe* says it is rumoured that the Ministers will propose as their remedy for Ribbonism that in cases of offence committed by members of the Ribbon Societies trial by jury shall be superseded, and the prisoners shall be tried by three judges.

We (*Record*) understand that the costs of the prosecution alone in the case of "Noble *v.* Voysey" are little short of £2,500.

The mail from South Australia brings dates to 1st of March. The harvest was nearly completed. Three cargoes of wheat had left for Europe, although the market price was generally known to be above the maximum fixed for English orders.

One house in New York is inhabited by 1,218 persons —"a village under one roof."

The *Standard* states that Mr. Reed, the late Chief Constructor of the British navy, has just received and accepted an official invitation to visit the dockyards and arsenals of Russia.

The illegitimate births in Rome are to the legitimate as three to one.

It appears from a parliamentary return just issued, that 24,698 men enlisted last year in the army, of whom 14,927 were finally accepted. The number of volunteers enrolled for the militia was 16,969, and the number of militiamen who volunteered for the regular army, 4,733.

It is believed that the Marchioness of Lorne will be present at the Scott centenary banquet in Glasgow.

It is said that the Emperor of Germany is a practical printer. All his family are obliged to have some trade. He chose to be a printer, and wrought at the case three years.

Out of twenty samples of bread examined in the South of London, the *Food Journal* says that only three were positively genuine, while sixteen were contaminated with an actual poison.

A woman has died at Waterford from drinking twenty-six glasses of whisky.

The Executive of the National Reform Union have passed resolutions in favour of closing public-houses during municipal and parliamentary elections.

The engineer and fireman of a tug-boat quarrelled and had a fight off Queenstown a day or two since. In the struggle they both fell overboard and were drowned.

It has been necessary to destroy a number of sheep during the last two or three days in Yorkshire, owing to their having been attacked with hydrophobia.

It is said that the Chinese are about to make needle-guns.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Genoa, nephew of the King of Italy, has been paying a visit to Birmingham, in the course of visiting several important English towns.

Before any appointment is made to the vacant office of Judge Advocate General, it is stated some matters relating to the position and duties of that office will have to be considered by the Government.

According to the *Nord*, a serious secessionist movement has been set on foot in Corsica. The inhabitants are incensed at the treatment of the Emperor Napoleon.

M. de Lesseps has returned to France.

The Earl of Dalhousie was entertained on Saturday at Arbroath by his tenantry. Referring to the game laws, he said he would not interfere with the freedom of contract, but he would alter the law so as to enable the tenant to recover damages in the county court without appeal from the judgment. He would exclude rabbits from the game list in the interest of the farmers.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Lorne have arrived at Florence. They travel as Lord and Lady Sandridge.

A Yorkshire correspondent informs the *Pall Mall Gazette* that a grocer in a town in that county sold 150 dozen boxes of lucifer matches to various customers on Saturday morning in a single hour.

A fire on Saturday at the cotton mill of Messrs. M'Connell, Manchester, caused £12,000 damages.

The premises of Mr. Sheridan, farmer, in the county Meath, were recently set on fire. He had taken additional land, which he laid down in grass.

The manufactured goods imported into New York last month were valued at £2,900,000, or a million in excess of March last year.

Information reached London on Monday of the loss of the Australian ocean steamship *Queen of the Thames*, on her homeward voyage.

The Bavarian Professor Sepp, heretofore one of the greatest champions of Ultramontanism in Germany, has pronounced for Dr. Döllinger.

Had the Match-Tax Bill passed into law, Messrs. Bryant and May would have had to pay the Government between £2,000 and £3,000 a week.

A Berlin telegram says the time appointed for the construction of the St. Gothard Railway is prolonged until the 31st of October.

On Sunday the health of the Pope was causing apprehension.

There are about 30,000 men, women, and children employed in the London match manufactories.

The Cape mail which arrived at Southampton on Monday night brings news of a waterspout having occurred at Victoria West, the bursting of which caused the loss of 100 lives, and destruction of property to the amount of £35,000.

According to the most recent arrangements, the Queen may be expected to leave Osborne for Windsor on Tuesday next.

A French printer in New York, Mons. Paul Messant, was married last month to the Princess Editha, daughter of Lola Montez and the King of Bavaria. She was born in Florence, and is just twenty-one years old.

The newest Romish miracle is the "unusual emotion" displayed by the statue of St. Dominic at Rome.

Mr. Voysey writes to an Edinburgh paper to deny that he ever called Jesus Christ "a qualified impostor." He threatens the papers with actions for libel if they misreport him.

A farmer named Kennedy was murdered on Saturday night at Barna, county Limerick, while returning home. The cause of the outrage is supposed to be a dispute about a turf bog. Five men are arrested.

During the recess Mr. Gladstone went timber-cutting, and Mr. Bruce salmon-fishing.

The decision in the Queen's Bench in the appeal case "Thompson *v.* Ward," will prevent the London Liberals polling one hundred new votes.

According to a telegram from Munich, Dr. Döllinger has received a very gracious autograph letter from King Louis, in which his Majesty expresses regret at the doctor's excommunication.

During March sixty-eight ships—of which forty-six were British—passed through the Suez Canal.

It is reported that Prince Arthur is to be created Duke of Ulster.

On Saturday night three girls, inmates of the Manchester workhouse at Crumpsall, were killed by their nurse administering carbolic acid in mistake for cough mixture.

The Greek frigate *Byzantion*, with the remains of the patriarch Gregory, who was hung by the Turks in the Greek war of independence, passed through the Bosphorus on the morning of the 24th. She was saluted by some Greek vessels, who hoisted flags, but no other demonstration was made.

Mr. C. Bradlaugh was arrested at Calais on Friday night, and the Sous-Préfet of the Pas de Calais de Boulogne, acting under "urgent and imperative orders," turned him out of France on the following day. It appeared that his object was to reach Versailles to lay before the Government the terms of peace which his "friends" the Communists would accept.

One hundred and seventy-five thousand francs have been seized by order of the Commune in the Church of St. Philippe du Roule.

The town of Verovitica, in Sclavonia, has been almost entirely destroyed by fire; 400 houses were burnt, 4,000 inhabitants rendered houseless, and the loss is estimated at half a million.

M. Thiers has issued a circular despatch to the prefects, in which he says:—"Our army now forms two separate corps, under the orders of Generals Douai and Clinchamp. Our active operations will shortly commence."

It has been resolved at a meeting of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce to petition Parliament against the proposal to increase the succession duty, and also against the match tax.

The loan of 120 million thalers has been finally sanctioned by the German Parliament, only six members voting against it.

In consequence of a disagreement between the Prussian and French generals respecting the return of the French prisoners to France, the four large Transatlantic Company's steamers which had gone to Hamburg to bring them home will return to Havre without them.

Father Philippe, Superior-General of the Order of Brothers of the Christian Schools, has escaped from Paris in the disguise of an old woman.

A brutal murder was committed at Cappamore, Tipperary, on Saturday night last. It appears that a farmer, named Thomas Kennedy, was returning from the village to his home near Barna, when he was set upon and beaten to death. Several persons are in custody.

The population of Devonport has increased only 364 since last census.

The schooner *Propontis*, of Penzance, has arrived at Port Sandy, with the captain and two seamen, murdered by natives at Port Gallant.

COUNTRY LIFE.

MILITIAMEN'S WIVES.

WHY does a man enlist in the militia? The question is one not easy to answer. When, a few days ago, in the House of Commons, Mr. Reed twitted the Government upon the starvation pay of the letter carriers, the Premier replied that those officers under the Postmaster-General did not perform compulsory duty. He pointed to the fact that there is always a keen competition for vacancies in the letter carrier service, and that the man who succeeded in getting an appointment considered himself fortunate. No doubt there is a good deal to be said on that side of the question. In the delivery business, as in the other departments, there is increase of pay in proportion to length of service, and there is a small superannuation allowance when the runner's work is done, which is in itself a very great temptation to a prudent man. But none of these considerations apply to him who becomes a militiaman. His pay is only fifteen pence a day, out of which he is compelled to refund eightpence for rations, &c. There is no promotion worthy of a thought, no pension, no permanency of employment, and, we should imagine, no single inducement worthy of a moment's reflection. Were it not that the experiment has been tried, and men have been found in sufficient numbers to swell the ranks of this reserve force, we should be inclined to say, to begin with, that it would be impossible to raise such a body of men without the ballot. Nevertheless, there they are, and no doubt, though a large proportion of them are what are called "marksmen" (by reason of a habit they have of making an inartistic "cross" with pen and ink when they are called upon for their autograph), they would fight as well as the highly educated German soldiers if we placed them face to face with an enemy. They enlist mostly because they happen to be "on the spree" at the time, because they are temporarily out of employment, or because they feel that their ordinary routine of life and labour has grown unpleasantly monotonous. When we examine into these motives, and catechise our own feelings as to what might be possible to us under similar conditions, we can form some dim notion of the state of mind of the man who drifts into the militia. Of their own choice, we know, men may choose that position for themselves; but who would voluntarily be a militiaman's wife? That is, we think, a poser for the psychologist. Just as certain, however, as there is a militia force, so is there a great army of militiamen's wives, and a report in a country paper before us of the recent proceedings of the Northwich Board of Guardians lets a little light in upon the question of what sort of life these poor women lead. The Northwich Guardians, it seems, taking a patriotic view of their duties, have been in the habit of giving poor-relief to the wives of militiamen "out of the house;" treating them, in fact, as if they were widows or sick paupers, and not compelling them to take up their residence in the workhouse. We make a few brief extracts from the discussion which took place at the last Board meeting on the subject:—

> "Mr. Dutton thought it desirable that the Board should come to some determination as to granting relief to the wives and families of men who were called up at the annual training of the militia.
>
> "The Chairman said that when the militiaman had paid his 8d. per day for his rations, &c., he had 7d. clear pocket-money left. In addition to that each man received £1 1s. at the end of the training. He (the Chairman) thought some part of the guinea ought to come back to their wives and families, and said 7d. a day was a good deal to spend in beer and tobacco.
>
> "Mr. Dutton: Don't you think we had better consider that really it is an advantage to the country to encourage these men to enlist, and deal with their wives as we should with parties who are widows, and allow them the same scale of relief?
>
> "The Chairman did not think the men enlisted from the pure motive that it was for the good of the country.
>
> "Mr. Neumann said it was no part of the duty of the guardians to encourage men to enlist, nor did he think it was any advantage to the country. The relief of the wives and families under the circumstances was an imperial duty, and it ought to come out of the funds of the country, and not out of the funds of that Board. He objected entirely to pay anything. He would offer the workhouse, but nothing more.
>
> "Mr. Verdin agreed that it was a great hardship on the ratepayers for the families of men who served in the militia to come to that Board for support. It was an encouragement to pauperism. The last week of training, when the men received a guinea, he thought they should stop the relief.
>
> "Mr. Neumann: To bring the thing to the test, I beg to move that no relief be given to militiamen's wives and families, except the workhouse.
>
> "Mr. Verdin: I second that.
>
> "Mr. Clarke proposed, as an amendment, that relief should be allowed for a fortnight, and in the meantime the Clerk inquire from other Unions the practice adopted.
>
> "Mr. Griffiths seconded the amendment."

We may as well state that, true to their generally benevolent and patriotic character, the guardians adopted the milder of the alternatives, accepting Mr. Clarke's amendment. So there is out-door relief, for two weeks longer at least, to the widows of the Northwich militiamen. After that we trust they will not gravitate, with their children, into Northwich Union House. The budget is, we admit, a hardship upon us all, owing to the great increase in our military expenditure, but it is a still greater hardship that the wives of our country's defenders should be forced into the workhouse.

Since we find soldiers and militiamen so necessary to our safety and our honour, we ought perhaps to pay them enough to support their wives and families. We fear, however, we are getting at this point a little out of our depth, and we hasten to turn our attention to some other aspect of "Country Life."

ENGLISH FANCY GOODS.

We hope it is not a sin to profit by the misfortunes of others. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has told us that in some respects our trade last year, and therefore our revenue, increased by reason of the war and the check upon commerce and industrial pursuits in France. The foolish and—not to mince matters—the atrocious and criminal internecine quarrel now going on in that country is tending to produce a permanent reduction of French industrial exportations. What we used to purchase of our neighbours the English manufacturer is learning to make at home, and not without success. Witness the following extract from the Trade Report of the Midland Counties in the *Birmingham Morning News*:—

> "The brassfounders and jewellers of Birmingham are very busy, some of the firms not having been so well supplied with orders for four or five years as at the present moment. Fancy goods will, of necessity, be in active demand until the usual French production is resumed. Meanwhile, the Birmingham manufacturers are earnestly striving to commend their patterns, in preference to French products, to the large buyers of such material."

Beyond question those enterprising Birmingham manufacturers will retain a portion of the trade diverted from France. Year by year the English artisan is improving in art culture. Our designs are greatly superior to those of a few years ago. Hard, laborious, intensely practical as is the ordinary life of the population of Birmingham and the district, there is a growing tendency to master the principles of art and taste. The men follow these pursuits in a certain dry and peculiarly business-like manner, but they make progress, rather by dint of unconquerable perseverance than by a delicate perception of harmonious relations. That is the Englishman's fashion of winning, and he generally achieves in the long run what he sets his mind upon. The art and science classes, and other similar institutions in Birmingham are remarkably successful. Let those quarrelsome Frenchmen look to it.

THE WELSH LANGUAGE.

A learned county court judge attended a recent Eisteddfodd whereat, in the course of a speech in which he did not anticipate that he should give offence, he urged upon Welshmen, while they cultivated their native tongue, at the same time to learn English. He seems to have been incautious, however, in his method of referring to the Welsh language, for the conductor of the festival grew angry, and expressed himself strongly in a Welsh speech. The judge was grieved to find that he had offended the native sensitiveness, and in a letter to a local journal he says:—

> "I certainly had no idea of disparaging the language or its use by those acquainted with it. I should as soon have thought of reproaching a lark with singing or a dog with barking."

He does not say whether he compares the language with the singing or the barking, but he tells us, as well as he is able, what the conductor said:—

> "I don't know what his words were, for my interpreter was a bit of a wag, but I understood it to be to the effect that Welsh was spoken in Paradise and long before the Tower of Babel—that it would be spoken to the end of the world—that Welshmen would talk in Welsh, sing in Welsh, read in Welsh, pray in Welsh, swear in Welsh, lie in Welsh, and drink in Welsh to their last hour, and use nothing but Welsh in the world to come!"

We confess that our respect for the ancient Celtic tongue of the Principality is increased by this little bit of racy free translation. The man who can get up on the spur of the moment and with such point and vigour defend in the native language the language of the natives, must be master of a medium of expression capable of great things. We should be glad to see the Welsh arguments in support of their theory of the extreme antiquity of their language put into a compendious form for English readers.

A BORDER SCENE NEAR HAWICK.

We have gone a long way north for this little bit of "country life," and we present it in the shape of an engraving. It appears on page 116. We need say nothing about the custom of sheep-washing, for it is as old as the shepherd's occupation. The patriarch Jacob could hardly have adopted a more primitive method of cleansing his flock than that followed by the modern Borderers whom Mr. Swain has portrayed in this sketch.

There is a hardiness about life and all its processes as we go northward, of which this scene is an example. Our Southdown breeders, who go in for small bone and early maturity rather than for strength and endurance, would hesitate about committing their hoggets to this rather deep and strong-running stream; but the Scotch ewes take to the water apparently like dogs, and make for the dry pastures on the opposite side with fine vigour and pluck. It is a rather lively spectacle, the spirit whereof has been happily caught by our artist.

THE "ROYAL."

The national Agricultural Show at Wolverhampton in July will be a big one. In the midst of a vast industrial population, where every man, woman, and child understands something of machinery and the value of inventions, the exhibition will be looked forward to with great interest. More than £6,000 has been subscribed in Wolverhampton and the neighbourhood as a fund wherewith to give the Society a welcome, and another £1,500 is expected. For the show in 1872 the competing towns are Cheltenham, Cardiff, and Newport. Each is ready to make handsome preparations for the occasion, and it remains for the Council of the Society to choose where it will bestow its honours. At Cardiff the Marquis of Bute has offered to throw open Cathays Park for the occasion, should the Council decide in favour of that town.

SUNDAY IN HASTINGS.

We quote from a local paper the following melancholy account of a recent meeting at Hastings:—

> "On Thursday evening a public meeting was called in connection with the Lord's Day Rest Association, for the purpose of adopting a petition to Parliament in favour of suspending Sunday labour in the post-office. The Wellington-square Lecture Hall was engaged for the meeting; and half a dozen well-known local gentlemen were announced to take part in assisting Mr. Prichard, the deputation from the society. We regret to say that the greatest number present at any time—all told—was twelve! Not one of the local speakers announced to be present attended. Having waited three-quarters of an hour, and getting neither audience nor speakers, Mr. Prichard then said he had received notes explaining the absence of three of the gentlemen whose names were on the notices of the meeting, but seeing the small number of listeners present, he did not think it worth while to attempt to proceed."

Where were the letter carriers? They alone might have made a larger meeting. Are the postmen of Hastings indifferent to Mr. Reed's exertions in their behalf?

GEORGE DAWSON ON SHAKESPEARE.

The great bard is not without honour in the Midland Counties, where he was born. The memorial library at Birmingham, growing out of the famous "Tercentenary," is a splendid monument. The reputed birthday of the poet was celebrated as usual by an anniversary dinner at Birmingham on Saturday, when Mr. George Dawson, the President of the Shakespeare Club, was chairman. Year after year he has occupied that position, but there is always a freshness in his address when the moment comes for proposing the great toast, "The Immortal Memory of William Shakespeare." We select a few small gems from his speech on Saturday:—

> "He had to propose to them a man whom to propose was to stop all eloquence and to beggar all thought, for there was confusion in profusion, and he who had the most to choose from often hesitated longest which road he should take.
>
> "Shakespeare touched the Romans, and they grew great under his touch; he baptised them in his Christianity, and they grew greater than the originals.
>
> "Where Juvenal had said all his little say, and exhausted all his little stock, the Englishman, born in this changeful climate, in this island of islands, in this marvellous land of sunshine and shade, of gloom and gladness, which the world could not exceed in beauty—where Juvenal stopped, Shakespeare began. The full meridian smell of flowers, the glories of nature, the simplicity of the shepherd, the sweetness of the forest, the deep gloom that oaks do throw—these things were unknown to the Roman; but the great Englishman carried us to the fair forest of Arden, and brought before us once again the glory of our childhood, and showed us once more the beauties that lay about us.
>
> "He had to congratulate them on the fact that Shakespeare was now being studied by the young as an English classic; that slowly and surely the wanton waste of the mind of this country with regard to our literature was disappearing, and that little club had done something to put an end to that most shameful state of things.
>
> "We had come to understand that Shakespeare was to be understood, that he was to have a grammar of his own, that his language was a wonderful language by itself, and that it was sufficient of itself; not to be altered, amended, tinkered with, or apologised for, but to be reverently studied, set forth, and understood.
>
> "In meeting together to celebrate the memory of Shakespeare there was no growing age, and no increasing frost upon the head; and frost upon the head was no guarantee of frost upon the heart.
>
> "So he had simply once again to call their attention to that immortal man, the greatest of mortal intellects, the largest receptacle of human emotions; and he had the same pleasure in doing so twenty years ago—when he loved him with a passion—as at fifty years of age, when he loved him with a passion and with an understanding. Shakespeare still remaiend master, supreme, and king."

AN increased number of salmon, compared with the produce of the previous year, was last year taken in the rivers Avon, Brue and Parret, and Frome.

THE cost of the new Houses of Parliament to be erected in Berlin is estimated by the Committee of the Federal Council at 750,000 thalers.

IT is stated from Constantinople that the Sultan has sent his First Chamberlain to Egypt to ask the Khedive for explanations respecting his armaments and the burdens upon the population.

MARAVILLA COCOA FOR BREAKFAST.—The *Globe* says—Taylor Brothers' Maravilla Cocoa has achieved a thorough success, and supersedes every other cocoa in the market. Entire solubility, delicate aroma, and all the concentration of the purest elements of nutrition, distinguish the Maravilla Cocoa above all others. For Homœopaths and invalids we could not recommend a more agreeable or valuable beverage.—Sold in packets only, by all grocers. Sole proprietors, Taylor Brothers, London. [272

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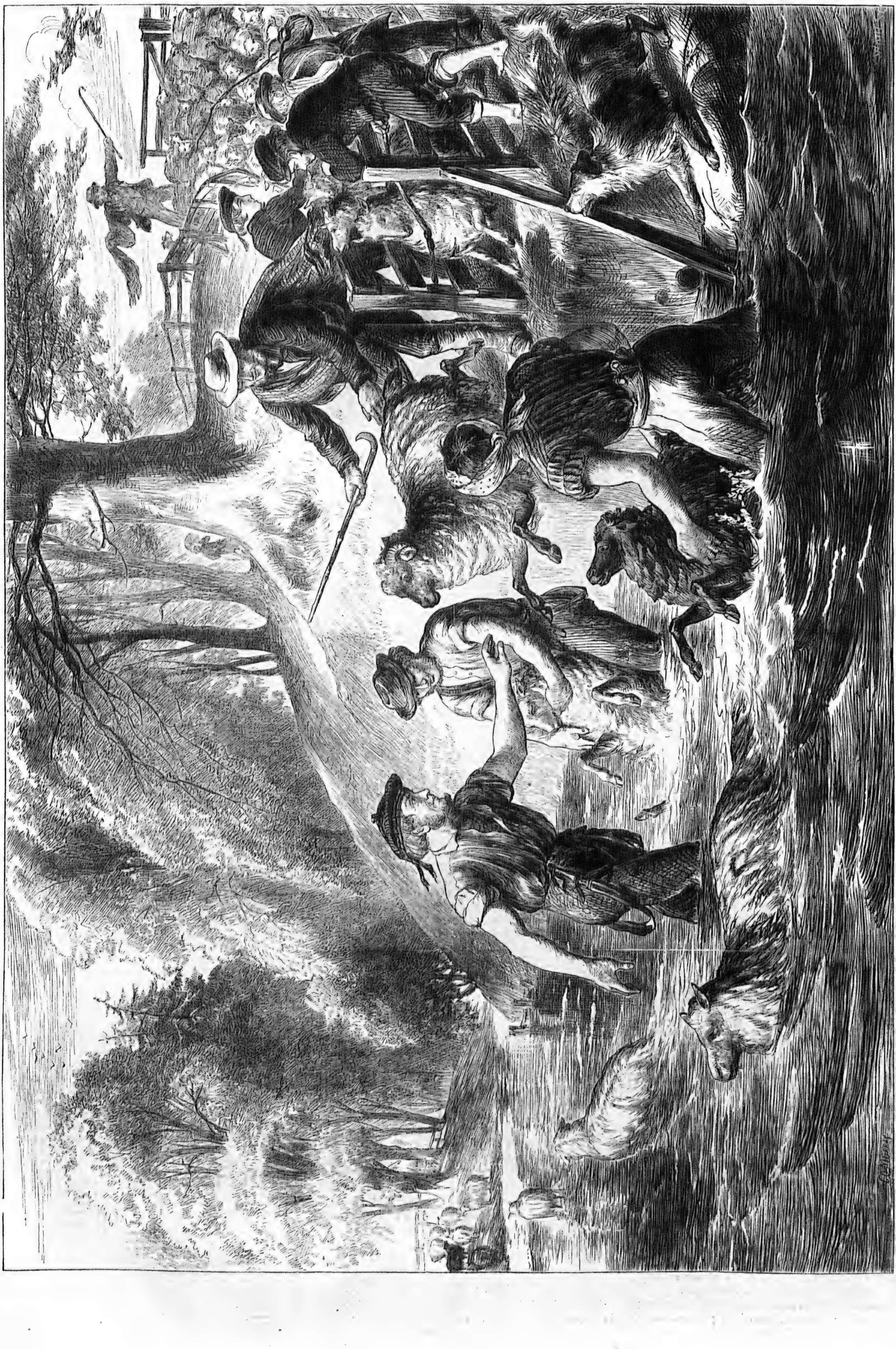
FACEACHE, TOOTHACHE, TIC DOLOREUX.—ADAM SMITH'S NEURALGINE effects a certain cure.—Depôt, 39, Ann-street. Sold by all Chemists; and Gare, Green, Bagott, of Dudley. [107



SHEEP WASHING: A BORDER SCENE NEAR HAWICK.

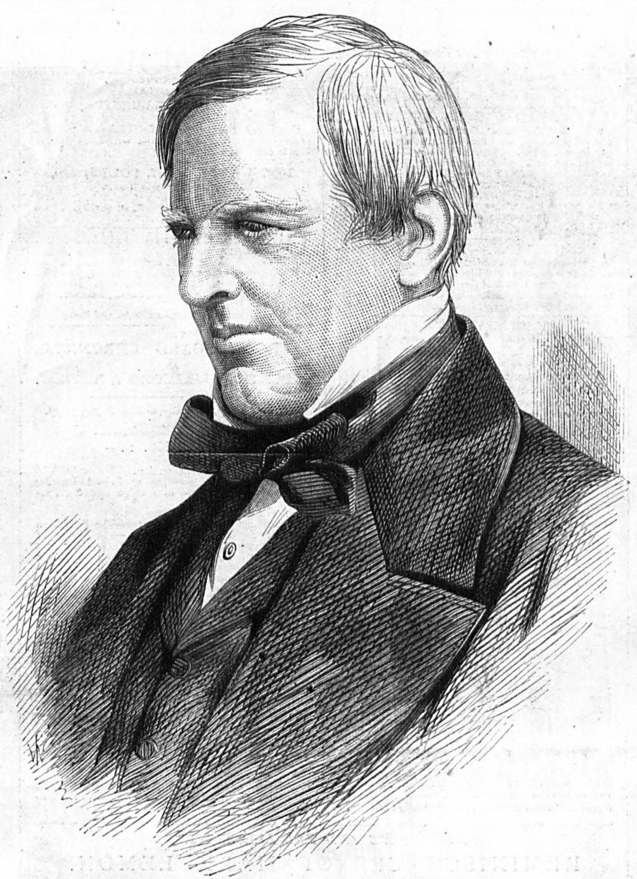
MEUDON.

SINCE the commencement of the Civil War in France, Meudon has been constantly the scene of action. Meudon has been held by the insurgents, and the insurgents (who once had 40,000 men there) have in their turn been driven out. The Château at Meudon, now belonging to the nation, is approached by a fine avenue of lime trees, and was built by the Grand Dauphin, son of Louis XIV., who died in it. The castle was built from designs of Mansard, 1699, by the side of an older building now destroyed, the work of Philibert Delorme, which the widow of the Minister Louvais sold to Louis XIV. During the Revolution the Comité du Salut Public converted it into a factory for inventing and perfecting warlike engines, and surrounded it with a permanent camp to keep out spies. In 1812 Napoleon fitted up the existing château for Marie Louise. It is beautifully situated, and its gardens, laid out by Le Notre, are very fine. In times of peace the Forêt de Meudon is a favourite holiday resort of the Parisians. It was here that the fatal railway accident occurred, in May, 1842, when, by the fracture of the axle of a locomotive, several of the foremost carriages of a long train were crushed, thrown upon the engine furnace, and set on fire. More than a hundred persons were burnt alive (together with the railway carriages in which they were locked) in about a quarter of an hour. An expiatory chapel, dedicated to Notre Dame des Flammes, has been erected on the spot where this catastrophe occurred.

A "LOMBARD" telegram says that the Foreign Consular Corps have held a meeting to determine whether, under existing circumstances, they shall decide to leave Paris in a body.

THE Central Committee and General Cluseret (says the *Daily News* correspondent) are all but in open quarrel. The members of the Committee accuse the General of being a Bonapartist in disguise, and threaten to arrest him.

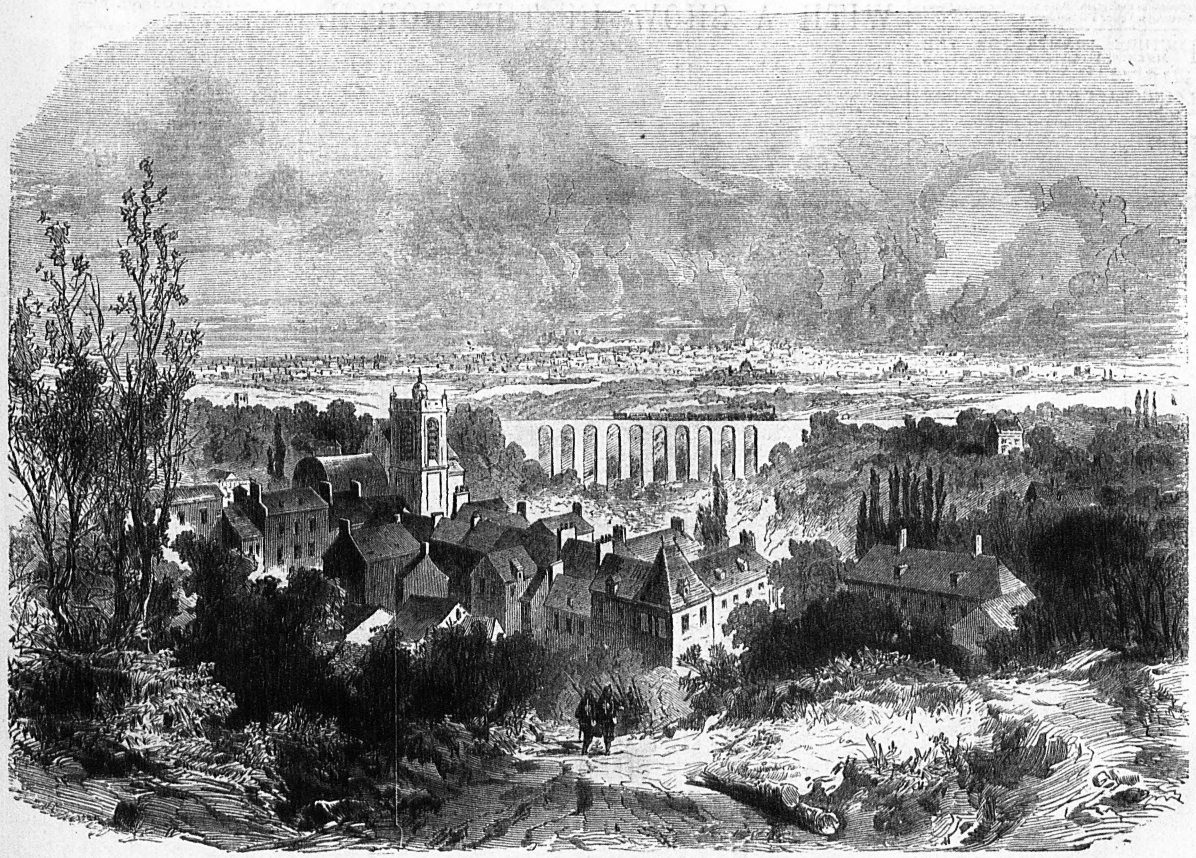
A DEPUTATION of English Democrats has been received by the Commune, which they congratulated in the name of the Democrats of London. The (Red) *Journal Officiel* announces the event thus:—"The Commune has sympathetically welcomed the address of the English Republicans, and, on the part of Paris fighting for Communal franchises and the enfranchisement of the prolétariat, sends them its sincere thanks."



PORTRAIT OF THE RIGHT HON. ROBERT LOWE.

A DEFUNCT BILL.

MR. LOWE'S Bill for establishing a match tax was issued on Monday. The *Globe* says:—"It provides—if the present tense can be used for a dead Bill—that from the 10th of May next no matches shall be sold, or be delivered out of the possession of any manufacturer or importer of matches, except under the following conditions:—1. The matches shall be contained in a box. 2. Each box of matches shall have affixed thereto a label or labels (which shall not have been before used) denoting the proper amount of duty payable upon such box according to the number and kind of matches therein contained. 3. Such label or labels shall be affixed so that the whole thereof shall adhere to the box, and so that the box cannot be opened without tearing or destroying the label or labels. 4. Where more than one label is affixed to any box of matches the labels shall be affixed so that every label shall be wholly or partially visible. The penalty for selling matches except under these conditions is fixed at £10; for manufacturing them, £50. Power is given to the police to arrest any person selling unlabelled matches, and the offender is liable to a month's hard labour, in default of paying £10 penalty. The penalty for selling labels without authority is £20, and the proof that the labels have not been previously used will be upon the defendant. The penalty for buying labels which have been previously used is £100. Manufacturers and importers of matches are to make entry of their premises intended to be used for manufacturing or storing matches. Matches are not to be imported in labelled boxes, but they may be exported duty free. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue will allow a discount of one per cent. to any person who shall purchase labels to the value of £50 and upwards. The punishment for forging or counterfeiting labels is penal servitude for a period of from three years to life, or imprisonment not exceeding two years. The term 'matches' is to include lucifer matches, fusees, and all other matches prepared so as to be capable of being ignited by friction, or otherwise than by the application of actual fire or heat, manufactured in or imported into the United Kingdom; and where any match has more than one point or part prepared as aforesaid, every such point or part shall be deemed to be, and shall be counted as, a separate match. The term 'box,' the Bill says, is to include every other kind of enclosure."



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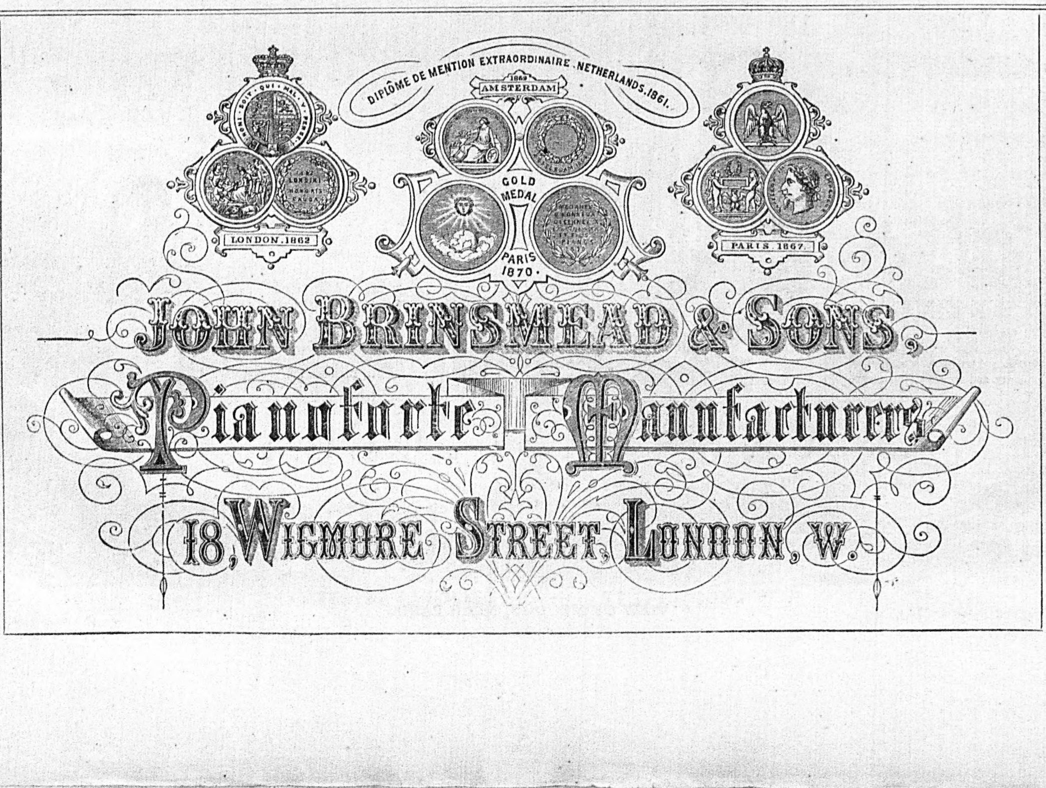

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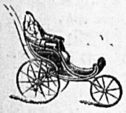

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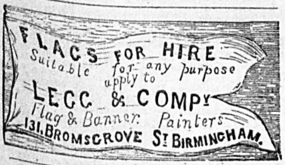

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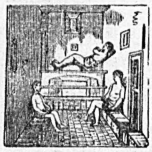

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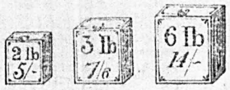

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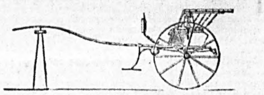

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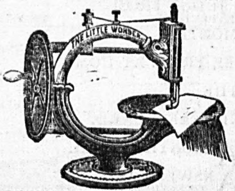

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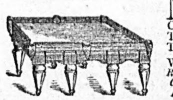

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